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Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Excerpts from newspapers and
other sources illuminating
aspects of this most well-known
Presidential speech

Reactions to the Address

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
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Lincoln Speech Was Applauded

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
February 12, 1956

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AP Newsfeatures

One of the most frequent features of the observances of Lincoln's birthday is the reading of the Gettysburg address. Some of the people who prepare the programs have been puzzled by conflicting reports about how the address was received when it was delivered in 1863.

Some reports say the audience listened in complete silence. It is often asserted that the occasion was so solemn that applause would have been like blasphemy. Other reports suggest that the audience was not impressed by the speech.

One important Lincoln authority, Dr. Louis A. Warren, has challenged the reports there was no applause. He bases his belief on the copy sent from Gettysburg on the day of the address by Joseph L. Gilbert, reporter for The Associated Press. In that copy, the word "applause" appears in brackets five times.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (Applause). Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war: We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

"It is altogether fitting and

proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far beyond our poor power to add or detract. (Applause). The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. (Applause). It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. (Applause). It is rather for us here to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, (Applause) that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. (Long continued applause)"



Lincoln at Gettysburg, from an old drawing.

News Report Shows Lincoln Did Get Applause at Gettysburg

AP Newsfeatures

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The Warren study of the problem indicates that reports of a silent audience were all made originally by people who wrote long after the event.

Gilbert was a young reporter for The Associated Press. He was sent from Philadelphia to cover the Gettysburg dedication. He took the presidential speech down in shorthand. Here is the copy which he transmitted:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (Applause). Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war: we are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live,

the people, shall not perish from the earth. (Long continued applause)."

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LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SPEECH.

Ward Lamon has caused much astonishment by his recent statement in the *Chicago Tribune* in regard to the effect of Lincoln's famous Gettysburg speech. Mr. Lamon was Marshal of the day, and witnessed the whole scene, but he does not mention that the day was cold and the audience already tired out by long speeches. His statement is as follows:

A day or two before the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Mr. Lincoln told me that he would be expected to make a speech on the occasion; that he was extremely busy, with no time for preparation; and that he greatly feared that he would not be able to acquit himself with credit, much less to fill the measure of public expectation. From his hat (the usual receptacle of his private notes and memoranda), he drew a page of foolscap, closely written, which he read to me, first remarking that it was a memorandum of what he intended to say. It proved to be in substance, and, I think, in the very words what was printed as his Gettysburg speech.

After its delivery he expressed deep regret that he had not prepared it with greater care. He said to me on the stand immediately after concluding the speech: "Lamon, that speech won't soar! It is a flat failure, and the people are disappointed." He seemed more than ordinarily concerned about what the people would think of it. I was deeply impressed by his frank and regretful condemnation of the effort, and especially by his manner of expressing that regret, and my own impression was deepened by the fact that the orator of the day, Mr. Everett, and Mr. Seward both coincided with Mr. Lincoln in his unfavorable view of its merits.

The occasion was solemn, impressive, and grandly historic. The people stood spell-bound, it is true. The vast throng was hushed and awed into profound silence while Mr. Lincoln read his brief address; but it seemed that this silence and attention to his words arose more from the solemnity of the ceremonies and the awful scenes which gave occasion to them, than from anything the President said. On the platform from which Mr. Lincoln made his address, and only a moment after its conclusion, Mr. Seward turned to Mr. Everett and asked him what he thought of the President's speech. Mr. Everett replied: "It was not what I expected from him; I am disappointed." In his turn Mr. Everett asked: "What do you think of it, Mr. Seward?" The response was: "He has made a failure, and I am sorry for it; his speech is not equal to him." Mr. Seward then turned to me and asked: "Mr. Marshal, what do you think of it?" "I am sorry to say it does not impress me as one of his great speeches."

Probably in February

As a matter of fact, Mr. Lincoln's great Gettysburg speech fell on the vast audience like a wet blanket. At that time his reputation was confessedly on the wane. The politicians of the country—those of his own party, together with a large part of the press—were casting about for an available candidate to be his successor, while a great majority of the people were for him. I state it as a fact, and without fear of contradiction, that this famous Gettysburg speech was not received or commented upon with anything like hearty favor by the people, the politicians, or the press of the United States until after the death of its author. Its marvelous perfection and its intrinsic excellence as a masterpiece of English composition seemed to have escaped the scrutiny of the most scholarly critics and the wisest heads of that day on this side of the Atlantic. That discovery was made, we must regretfully see, by distinguished writers on the other side. The *London Spectator*, the *Saturday Review*, the *Edinburgh Review*, and other English journals were the first to discover, or at least to proclaim, the classical merits of the Gettysburg speech. It was then that we began to realize that it was indeed a masterpiece, and it then dawned upon many minds that we had entertained an angel unawares who had left us unappreciated.

The speech is given below:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are all engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or to detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

no identification



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It will probably cause general surprise to learn that when first delivered Mr. Lincoln's Gettysburg speech was thought by himself and his most intimate party friends and associates a flat failure. Yet the fact is asserted by Mr. Lamon, once Mr. Lincoln's law partner, and marshal of the day at the Gettysburg dedication. Mr. Lamon, in an article in the *Chicago Tribune*, says :

The people stood spell-bound, it is true. The vast throng was hushed and awed into profound silence while Mr. Lincoln read his brief address; but it seemed that this silence and attention to his words arose more from the solemnity of the ceremonies and the awful scenes which gave occasion to them, than from anything the President said. On the platform from which Mr. Lincoln made his address, and only a moment after its conclusion, Mr. Seward turned to Mr. Everett and asked him what he thought of the President's speech. Mr. Everett replied: "It is not what I expected from him; I am disappointed." In his turn Mr. Everett asked: "What do you think of it Mr. Seward?" The response was: "He has made a failure and I am sorry for it; his speech was not equal to him." Mr. Seward then turned to me and asked: "Mr. Marshal, what do you think of it?" "I am sorry to say it does not impress me as one of his great speeches."

The credit of discovering its beauty and grandeur is awarded by the same writer to the English journals. As we read it now the story seems almost incredible; but it is not the first instance in which discourses that have been deemed weak and impotent when first delivered have proved to be strong and mighty.

GETTYSBURG SPEECH NO HIT

(Golden Book Magazine)

When the speakers were being chosen to make addresses at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln was an afterthought—and then a dubious chairman begged him to make his speech as short as possible!

It is generally believed that Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg address on a piece of brown paper, on the way to Gettysburg. But this is not true. Two days before the dedication at Gettysburg, President Lincoln had the speech almost all written and in his hat (where he usually kept valuable papers).

"The silence during the delivery of the speech, and the lack of hearty demonstration at its close," said Ward Hill Lamon, describing the event, "were taken by Mr. Lincoln as certain proof that it had not been well received. In that opinion we all shared."

"Mr. Lincoln said to me: 'Lamon, that speech won't scour! It's a flat failure and the people are disappointed.'" It occurred to only a few who heard it that it was an immortal address.

Phila 3-9-32

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**STATESMAN CULLOM AND LINCOLN'S
GREAT SPEECH**

LINCOLN
MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Washington, D. C.
August 23rd, 1913.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 22nd instant, with reference to Lincoln's Gettysburg speech, has been received and read.

I really cannot tell you just when Lincoln's Gettysburg speech began to be appreciated; it was appreciated by some very soon after it was delivered and printed. The speech was so brief that the audience scarcely caught on to it before Lincoln had finished and sat down, but very soon after it appeared in type the people began to appreciate it, and the more they read it the more they appreciated it. Whether or not the papers in England were among the first to appreciate the speech, I do not know and am unable to tell you.

I will send you a copy of the report of the Lincoln Memorial Commission and in it you will find a good many interesting things about the Memorial.

With great respect, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

S. M. CULLOM.

(L. S., 4to).

A. M. Cullom
Journal of the

Lincoln Speech Hearers Not Impressed at Time, Says New Cumberland Woman

"Any school boy could make a speech like that," Mrs. Lena Rosenberger, 88, of 316 West Fifteenth street, New Cumberland, one of the few persons still living who heard Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, deliver his immortal Gettysburg address, said she heard many persons say, as she stood not more than twenty feet from him after Lincoln sat down.

"But they did not then perceive the great significance of that address," she continued, upon being interviewed, "because people in those days thought all speeches in order to be good had to be long."

Mrs. Rosenberger, then Miss Lena Wolf, a girl of 18, is a daughter of the late Capt. Fred-

erick Wolf, who was a retired militia man at the outbreak of the Civil War. She lived with her parents on a farm along the Chambersburg pike, about three miles west of Gettysburg, which they were later forced to abandon while the battle of Gettysburg was fought.

She remembers "little Jennie Wade," as she called her, as one of the girls whom she knew before the fatal sniper's ball crashed through the walls of the Wade home and killed her while baking bread for Union soldiers. "We all baked bread for the soldiers then . . . we had to," Mrs. Rosenberger

Turn to Page Twenty-one

NEARBY WOMAN HEARD LINCOLN

From Page One

said, "and I remember well how o Daniel Gitt, whom everybody lik in Gettysburg, would haul in wag loads of flour."

Saw Him at the Square

"The day Lincoln came in to G. P. tysburg," Mrs. Rosenberger said, "we girls saw him first near the square. It was the first I had ever seen him. He was dressed just as they always described him these days, a little shabby and his pants weren't pressed.

"He seemed to pay more attention to the children than to any one else. As he walked along through the crowd, he smiled kindly at every one, but whenever he came upon little girls and boys, he would stoop and kiss the little girls and pat the little boys on the head. He even paused to admire little babies in their mother's arms. Sometimes he kissed them. There were many soldiers scattered through the crowd and every one was talking about Lincoln and praising him.

"I watched him as they were standing around corners there at Chambersburg street and the Square, getting ready to go out to where he was to speak. Horses stamped about, big horses, but for Lincoln they brought out a small one. He smiled as he straddled it. His feet hung down and touched the ground. Everyone laughed and so did he. Then they let him know it was all a joke, and brought him a larger horse which he mounted and rode out with the rest of the party.

Aided to Platform

"There was what we called a big crowd then, standing about as Lincoln mounted the platform, aided by many willing soldiers. Some claim there were still dead horses laying within sight of where he spoke, at that time, but I did not

see any. The people had worked day and night, burying them all. As he arose to speak a hush came over the crowd. I was standing a little back of him, alongside the edge of the platform. My mother was old and the soldiers had helped her up into a seat on the edge of the platform there. It seemed that you could just feel the gentle warmth of Lincoln's presence. He was so stately, and so kind.

"When he had finished people seemed kind of disappointed because his speech was so short, but everyone was for Lincoln, just the same. We all had great confidence in him. As he descended into the crowd again, he patted more little boys on the head and kissed some of the little girls. I shook hands with him a few moments later. He shook hands with everybody.

Sketched the Martyr

"My girl-friend Lizzie Gilbert, later put something on foolscap paper with a pen, and the drawing showed the face of Lincoln. They had it on display in Tyson's drug store a while and then it was sent to Washington. Lincoln was pleased with it.

"He left for Washington on a special train a short time after he spoke at Gettysburg," Mrs. Rosenberger stated.

The aged New Cumberland resident has a remarkable memory of the Civil War and it's aftermath. She returned to Gettysburg with her family from Arendtsville on the day after the Battle of Gettysburg.

"All along the road on the way back to the farm," she said, "the dead were lying. They were mostly rebels, because they had taken away a lot of ours by that time. There were dead horses lying around too. In the gullies along the road, they had thrown the bodies of rebels and threw a little dirt down over them. Their heads and feet stuck out, that is when they had feet. There were arms and legs laying around too, and at one place my brother kicked a leg, cut off at the knee, and cov-

ered with a tattered boot, to the side of the road.

"When we came to Hare's Tavern, which is still standing, about five miles west of Gettysburg, there were two piles of bodies outside, and on the inside there were more dead and some wounded. The whole place was bloody and terrible. The same thing was true of the corner where the Gettysburg Seminary stands. The wounded there were calling for help. When we got home the house, barn, wagonshed and everything was full of wounded. We had to nurse them for weeks until they had enough hospital space at the old General Hospital. Dead were buried in shallow graves all over the place, which itself was pretty well wrecked.

Will Visit Washington

Mrs. Rosenberger spent most of her time for weeks thereafter, along with other volunteers, nursing and writing letters for soldiers. Since those days she has lived in various places about Adams, Dauphin, Lebanon and Cumberland Counties, and for the last twenty years has resided with her son, John F. Rosenberger, in New Cumberland. Another son, Charles Rosenberger, a lawyer, is employed by the Federal Government, at Washington, whence Mrs. Rosenberger plans to go in May, to "shake hands with President Hoover." The son is making arrangements and she "wants to fly back in an airplane."

LINCOLN AS AN ORATOR.

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He Did Not Impress Those Who Heard Him, Even at Gettysburg.

Charleston News and Courier: George E. Paul, of Philadelphia, who was present and heard President Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address, was asked the other day by "Girard," of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, how it impressed him at the time. We quote Mr. Paul's answer:

"Not only," said he, "was I not specially impressed by Lincoln's wonderful speech at Gettysburg that day; but I don't believe anybody else who was there appreciated it. I stood within ten feet of Lincoln while he talked. The big crowd seemed astonished when he sat down, for the speech was so short he seemed scarcely to have begun when he ended."

"I know this to be true that for twenty years afterward I never even mentioned the fact to anybody that I heard Lincoln's speech. In those twenty years it wasn't much talked of, but as you know, now, everybody reads it."

Horace White, who reported the Lincoln-Douglas debates, delivered an address in Chicago at the recent Lincoln celebration, and thus described Mr. Lincoln's oratory.

"Lincoln had a high pitched falsetto voice that resembled the pipe of a boat-swain's whistle, and he often had to stop for repairs in the middle of a sentence. Both mind and body worked more slowly than in Douglas' case. No one ever caught Douglas napping, and he was quick as a flash in answering questions and making his interrupters feel their inferiority."

Yet much of Lincoln's fame rests upon his addresses, while only for students of history does Douglas' eloquence survive.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1895.

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG.

The recollections of W. H. Lamon, who knew Mr. Lincoln intimately, which have just been published, throw some needed light on the Gettysburg speech. Tradition, and the school histories, have it that after Lincoln had delivered his twenty lines that Edward Everett, whose stately eloquence had preceded, grasped the president's hand and said that he would gladly give his hundred pages for the president's twenty lines. Mr. Lamon says he was on the platform, at Gettysburg, and heard everything that was said. Instead of saying what would have been creditable to his judgment Mr. Everett said, to Mr. Seward: "It is not what I had expected of him; I am disappointed." Mr. Seward said: "He has made a failure and I am sorry of it; his speech is not equal to him." Mr. Lincoln himself was disappointed with the effect his words had produced on the audience. He said to Mr. Lamon, with a sad expression on his face: "Lamon, that speech won't scour. It is a flat failure and the people are disappointed." Mr. Lincoln's conclusion was reached by reason of the coldness of the audience. There was no sign of approval during the delivery of the now immortal words. The audience had even received the president coldly. But if those who heard it did not appreciate the greatness of the speech time has done full justice to it and placed it forever among the great and inspired utterances.

Read from Lincoln's Manuscript.

Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 25.—Gen. John P. Taylor, of Mifflin County, Department Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and his staff made their first official visit last night since the General's election to that office, to a Philadelphia organization, by attending the muster and camp-fire of Col. Fred Taylor Post, No. 19, on Marshall street above Poplar. During the progress of the camp-fire Col. John P. Nicholson, a member of Post No. 19, arose and delivered an address of much eloquence. He concluded his speech by reading from the sheet of foolscap paper on which Abraham Lincoln had written his famous Gettysburg speech and which occupies but two pages of the sheet. The effect upon the large audience was magical. The document is said to be one of the most valuable in its intrinsic and material worth of any of like character written in existence. Col. Nicholson stated to a reporter who was present that he is not at liberty to name its owner nor its value in money, but it is understood that if sold to-day it would bring many thousands of dollars. Col. Nicholson prevailed upon a friend to loan it to him to read to the men of Post 19 and their friends. (189)

* * *

O. M. Goldsmith, an attorney in Chicago, recently visited his brother Judge C. D. Goldsmith, at Sac City. The Chicago lawyer is a veteran of the civil war and at the dedication of the battlefield of Gettysburg he was among the soldiers commissioned to guard President Lincoln on that memorable occasion. Edward Everett, the noted New York orator and statesman, was selected by the war department to deliver the dedicatory address and Mr. Goldsmith, along with others of his company, stood at attention during the two hours of its delivery. And when it was completed Abraham Lincoln was introduced and in an extemporaneous effort lasting only a few minutes gave to posterity and to the world that immortal speech known to every schoolboy as President Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Oct 25 - * * * 1818

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Heard Lincoln at Gettysburg.

Mrs. D. S. Criswell is dead at Clarinda, Page county. She had the distinction of being privileged when a girl to hear the speech of Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the battlefield at Gettysburg. She occupied a position not far removed from the temporary platform upon which the great president stood when he delivered that memorable and immortal address. Mrs. Criswell left a daughter who is a missionary in Egypt.

* *

What Happened at Gettysburg

Many suppose that Lincoln's address created little attention, but the facts are otherwise.

new York Times Nov 19 1863

EIGHTY-THREE years ago this Tuesday, on a clear day in November, crowded, slow-moving trains and wagons made their way to Gettysburg. Fifteen thousand people were coming to witness the dedication of a battlefield.

On the previous day, President Lincoln and his party had arrived in Gettysburg. Edward Everett, the venerable scholar and speaker, was to be the Orator of the Day, and Mr. Lincoln had been asked to make "a few appropriate remarks" at the ceremonies. What he said is immortal. But the delivery of his address and its reception have been ever since the subject of conflicting report and legend. To this day there is a widely held belief that Lincoln's speech failed to attract attention among his contemporaries, that it fell upon the ears of an uninterested populace which "applauded faintly and was unimpressed." The facts are quite different.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 19, 1863, a procession formed just outside the town of Gettysburg. Generals, Governors, soldiers and

By RUTH BLOCK

officials, with military bands, took their places in line. At the head of the procession rode Lincoln, dressed in black and wearing a tall hat and white gauntlets. His horse was too small and his long legs nearly touched the ground, but the march was not long.

On a platform which had been built for the distinguished guests the President was seated between the Secretary of State, William Henry Seward, and Mr. Everett. A military guard encircled the field, within which stood 15,000 or more persons.

After the religious invocation by the Rev. Mr. Stockton, Mr. Everett rose to speak. White-haired, erect, Everett held the attention of his audience for two hours, and sat down amid the loud and general applause of the crowd.

AND then Lincoln rose. He spoke slowly, in a high, clear voice, glancing infrequently at the manuscript he held. His speech lasted two minutes.

What happened when he concluded? There are as many

versions as there are people who recorded their impressions.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported "long, continued applause." Spectators afterward recalled everything from "profound silence," or "no applause of any kind," to a "hurricane of applause." * * a tumultuous outpouring." It is evident from all reports that people were surprised at the brevity of the address. For a moment they were not sure that Lincoln had finished. But then the general response seems to have been one of enthusiasm tempered by the seriousness of the occasion.

IN view of the newspaper reports of the dedication, it is far from correct to suppose that while Everett received widespread admiration, Lincoln's words were unnoticed. Certain newspapers devoted editorial praise to Everett and simply quoted Lincoln's address without comment. Others, anti-Administration in policy, described his address in scathing, cruel and unjust terms. But there were many who recognized its greatness.



Lincoln at Gettysburg, Nov. 19, 1863. From an old print.

Probably the earliest favorable comment to appear was that wired by the reporter of The Chicago Tribune from Gettysburg: "The dedicatory remarks by President Lincoln will live among the annals of man." On the day after the delivery of the address Longfellow declared it was "admirable."

THE editorial comment of The Springfield Republican, which appeared on the second morning, is worth noting: "Surpassingly fine as Mr. Everett's oration was in the Gettysburg consecration, the rhetorical honors of the occasion were won by President Lincoln. His little speech is a perfect gem; deep in feeling,

compact in thought and expression."

The Evening Bulletin of Philadelphia said: "The President's brief speech of dedication is most happily expressed. It is warm, earnest, unaffected, and touching. Thousands who would not read the long, elaborate oration of Mr. Everett will read the President's few words, and not many will do it without a moistening of the eye and a swelling of the heart."

And Everett himself, thanking Lincoln for his kindness to him at Gettysburg, wrote, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

LINCOLN'S IMMORTAL GETTYSBURG SPEECH

It Was Almost Ignored by the
Newspapers in Their Re-
ports of the Occasion.

HE FEARED HE HAD FAILED

Spoke Extemporaneously from Notes
Scribbled on the Way to the
Historic Battlefield.

The thousands of enthusiastic young red-schoolhouse orators throughout the land and their enrapt parents, who have sat spellbound while their offspring repeated from the school platform Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg speech, beginning "Fourscore and seven years ago," could not easily be persuaded to-day that when President Lincoln delivered the address it was received, not only without acclaim, but was almost completely ignored.

Mr. Lincoln's memorable utterance on the indestructibility of freedom, which is known to-day as the "Gettysburg Address," was delivered by him at the exercises in dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg on the afternoon of Nov. 19, 1863. Here were to be buried the soldiers who had fallen in the great battle of a few months before. A part of the battleground had been set apart for the purpose, and consecrated previously to the reburial of the bodies by exercises which attracted attention all over the country.

Edward Everett, the orator of the day, had prepared for the occasion an address the delivery of which took nearly two hours. President Lincoln, of course, had planned to be present at the exercises, and on the night before he left the White House had scribbled down a few notes, knowing, as he said to the late John Hay, then his private secretary, that he would "be expected to say something."

The President's party left Washington at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 18, by special train over the old North Central Railroad. Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by Secretary of State Seward, Postmaster General Blair, Secretary Usher, several members of the Diplomatic Corps, Secretaries Nicolay and Hay, a large number

of army and navy officers, and a body-guard from the First Regiment of the Invalid Corps under Lieut. Ford. The Washington Marine Band went with them, and the route out into Pennsylvania was made to resound with martial airs.

Lincoln Nervous Over His Speech.

Soon after leaving the city the President told Secretary Seward that he was nervous about his speech. He fully appreciated the delicacy of the situation; the fact that the war was yet far from a satisfactory conclusion, and that he was going, not to raise men for the ranks, but to honor the memory of those who died possibly in vain. He talked the matter over almost continuously with his more intimate associates in the party, and just before reaching Gettysburg, into which the train drew at sundown, drew apart in a corner and went to scribbling in a notebook. Mr. Hay noticed that he tore up the last of the two sheets of notes he had written the night before and substituted the revisions he had made on the train.

Eight companies of the Fifth New York Artillery were in camp at Gettysburg, under Col. Murray, and after the President and his party had eaten supper they were serenaded by the men with their band. The clamor became so loud that Mr. Lincoln finally stepped out upon the porch and said:

"I appear before you, fellow citizens, merely to thank you for this compliment. The inference is a very fair one that you would hear me for a little while, at least, were I to commence to make a speech. I do not appear before you for the purpose of doing so, and for several substantial reasons." (Laughter, the men knowing that he had just finished his dinner.) "The most substantial of these is that I have no speech to make. In my position it is somewhat important that I should not say any foolish things." (A voice, interrupting, "If you can help it.") "It very often happens that the only way to help it is to say nothing at all. Believing that is my condition this evening, I must beg of you to excuse me from addressing you further."

Then Mr. Lincoln retired amid cheers. The next morning the exercises were started. When Mr. Everett arose to deliver his address he found himself confronted by a vast crowd. For a little less than two hours he spoke, delivering one of the most cleverly-phrased addresses ever delivered by this master of rhetoric.

A short prayer followed and the President's turn came. His nervousness had not decreased, and just before he arose he turned to Secretary Seward, who sat beside him, and said: "It is a flat failure. They won't like it." As he spoke in his high-pitched, deliberate voice, he was frequently interrupted by applause, but not

more enthusiastic than was due his station.

How the Speech Was Reported.

The account of the exercises was spread over many columns in the New York newspapers the next morning, but strange as it would seem to newspaper makers of to-day, no particular attention was devoted to Mr. Lincoln's speech. Many of the newspapers did not print the address and a few made no mention whatever of the fact that Lincoln had spoken. Still others merely said that the President "delivered a short address of dedication."

The Herald devoted nearly a page and a half to the story. Its heading ran: "The National Necropolis—Speeches by Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Seward, and Gov. Seymour." Then followed an elaborate account of the exercises and Mr. Everett's address in full. Before it came the words, "Mr. Everett then delivered the following oration with telling effect." The President's remarks were printed on an inside page without other comment than: "The President then delivered the following dedicatory speech."

Henry Ward Beecher had spoken the same day at the Academy of Music in Brooklyn on the relations between this country and England. Much space was also devoted to this meeting, and nearly all the New York dailies took occasion to comment editorially on the comparison between the utterance of Beecher and Everett, almost unanimously to the disadvantage of the latter.

Classic Speech Almost Ignored.

Not one of them, however, was sufficiently impressed by the remarks of Mr. Lincoln to even mention them in the discussion. The Herald said on the morning of Nov. 21: "We published yesterday two very important orations, that of Edward Everett on the battlefield of Gettysburg and that of Henry Ward Beecher at the Brooklyn Academy. The former was milk and water; utterly inadequate, although his sentences were as smooth as satin and his metaphors as chaste as snow."

On the afternoon of Nov. 20 The Evening Post gave three columns to the Beecher meeting and a column and a half to the Gettysburg dedication. The President's remarks were neither printed in the account nor commented upon editorially. The only mention of his having spoken at all was in the first paragraph of the article, which said: "The Soldiers' Cemetery at Gettysburg was formally dedicated yesterday. The President, Secretary Seward, and others made brief addresses, and an oration was delivered by Edward Everett."

The Tribune did put the fact that Mr. Lincoln had said something at Gettysburg in the heading of its story, thus: "Speeches of the President, Secretary of State, and Others—Edward Everett's Address." The famous address was also printed before Mr. Everett's, but there was no editorial comment upon it.

In THE TIMES the next morning President Lincoln's speech was printed on the first page, but no editorial comment was made.

A long editorial praising both Mr. Beecher and Mr. Everett, but failing to mention Mr. Lincoln, started—"We devote a broadside of this morning's Times to the publication of two orations which we are sure will command the attention of the day. And not of this day alone."

The World printed the address in its account of the exercises, with this com-

CONGR

ment: "The President himself delivered the dedicatory address, brief, and calculated to arouse deep feeling." A column-and-a-half editorial commenting on the oratory of the day, but failing to include Mr. Lincoln's remarks in the discussion, included this reference to Mr. Everett: "The most ornate and cultivated of American orators has fallen below the occasion and below his own reputation in the greatest opportunity ever presented to him for rearing a monument more enduring than brass."

Mr. Everett Was Impressed.

One thing may be said in explanation of the laxity of the New York dailies in dealing with the great address. Mr. Lincoln spoke practically extemporaneously, and "special correspondents" were not then sent as freely over the country as they are to-day. Mr. Everett, however, seemed duly impressed with the worth of the President's speech. He wrote a letter to Mr. Lincoln on the morning of the 20th, in which he said:

I beg leave in this way to thank you for your great thoughtfulness for my daughter's accommodation on the platform yesterday. Permit me also to express my great admiration of the thought expressed by you at the consecration of the cemetery. I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes. My son, who parted from me at Baltimore, and my daughter concur in this sentiment.

Mr. Lincoln wrote in reply the same day:

Your kind note of to-day is received. In our respective parts yesterday you could not have been expected to make a short address, nor I a long one. I am pleased to know that in your judgment the little I did say was not entirely a failure. Of course I knew Mr. Everett would not fail, and yet, while the whole discourse was eminently satisfactory and will be of great value, there were passages in it which transcended my expectations.

There are many different versions of the famous speech, all varying slightly in working. The one given on another page of to-day's TIMES is as written out by Mr. Lincoln at the request of Mr. Hay soon after their return to Washington from Gettysburg. The manuscript is now in the possession of Mrs. Hay. In it the fourth sentence originally read: "We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that the Nation might live."

In the seventh sentence the word "poor" was inserted by Mr. Lincoln as an afterthought. In the tenth he also changed the "the" before "cause" to "that." The manuscript differs from the usual school-book copies of the address in several important particulars. The ninth sentence usually reads: "It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

In the final sentence "under God" usually appears after "this nation" in the third clause, and the "this" before the famous line, "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people," is found in few copies except the original.

LINCOLN ORATION AT GETTYSBURG RECEIVED COLDLY

Chicago Tribune

2-18-41

Tribune Among the Few Papers Acclaiming It.

Abraham Lincoln's great Gettysburg address will be recited today in thousands of schools and public meetings. No unkind criticism will be uttered, and naught but praise will be given it.

But when the address was delivered it was, in most part, coldly received. Some newspapers scoffed at the oration, so cordially did their editors dislike Lincoln. His newspaper adversaries referred to him as clownish and said they were ashamed of his appearance and actions. One Chicago paper asserted:

"Mr. Lincoln did most foully traduce the motives of the men who were slain at Gettysburg. . . . The cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat, and dishwatery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as President."

Among First to Recognize Truths.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE was one of the few newspapers of the time that recognized the lasting truths that the civil war President had packed into the 10 sentences that composed the address.

"The dedicatory remarks of President Lincoln will live among the annals of men," its report said.

The opposing Chicago paper declared that Lincoln gave "an offensive exhibition of boorishness and vulgarity" and quoted a rebel southern paper as saying "Lincoln acted the clown."

Even the American correspondent of the staid London Times set himself up as a critic of Lincoln's words. "The ceremony was rendered ludicrous by some of the sallies of that poor President Lincoln," he wrote.

Lincoln Upheld by Tribune.

THE TRIBUNE's comment on the Gettysburg speech was only one of many instances of support that was given President Lincoln by THE TRIBUNE. It was one of the earliest advocates of his election, and its editor, Joseph Medill, took a prominent part in the convention that made Lincoln the Republican nominee for the Presidency.

Thru the dark days of 1863, when there was danger a wearied people would give up the war before victory was achieved, THE TRIBUNE carried on a stern campaign against "copperheads," or northern traitors. It upheld Lincoln in every measure for the prosecution of the war and the emancipation of the colored man.

Lincoln was appreciative. In the lobby of Tribune Tower is a letter from him to Medill, in which he said he expected to be a subscriber to the paper "so long as it and I both live."

* * * 1925

HOW Lincoln's Gettysburg speech was reported in the contemporary press is mentioned in *The World's Work* for August by Cameron Rogers in his contribution, "The Forgotten Orator—Edward Everett." Many newspapers in an obscure paragraph inserted a little item that, in the consecration ceremonies at the Gettysburg Cemetery, President Lincoln made "a few appropriate remarks." Of course there were exceptions—the *New York Tribune*, for example. The latter in its issue for Nov. 20, 1860, clearly shows that applause followed virtually every sentence of Lincoln's speech with long continued applause at the end. Edward Everett, it may be remarked in passing, was at 26 editor of the *North American Review*.

Lincoln, Ending Gettysburg Address, Believed It A Failure

News-Sentinel 2/12/41

BY EDWARD BOYKIN

Home Service Historical Authority

THERE was little applause, a few scattered outbursts. President Lincoln looked embarrassed. Nobody rushed to shake his hand and say he had made a great speech. The ladies and gentlemen seated on the platform with the President felt embarrassed. They—and the crowds, too, thought the President had merely paused. Nobody realized that the Gettysburg Address was over.

The day was November 19, 1863. The occasion was the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg where thousands of brave boys, who had fallen in the great battle, were buried.

The man of the moment was Edward Everett, who had preceded Lincoln with a two-hour, flowery oration. Lincoln had spoken for two minutes. As he returned to his seat he remarked that his speech was a failure and the newspapers next day generally agreed with him. "The President made a short, appropriate speech," commented one newspaper.

Two-Hour Oration Forgotten.

Today people have forgotten Edward Everett's two-hour oration while thousands know by heart the two-minute talk made by plain homely Abraham Lincoln.

The President was not to be the principal speaker at the dedication. This role was reserved for Everett, the master of oratory, a former governor of Massachusetts, ambassador to England and president of Harvard University.

Indeed, in the letter inviting the President to attend the ceremony the chairman had said, "It is the desire that after the oration you, as Chief Executive of the Nation, formally set apart these grounds for their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks."

Lincoln reached Gettysburg the night before the ceremony. In the course of the evening, serenaders called him out of the home of Judge Wills, the chairman, for one of those little front-porch addresses in which few remarks of value are made. In fact, on this occasion Lincoln actually said, "In my position it is sometimes important that I should not say foolish things." (A voice: "If you can help it.") "It very often happens that the only way to help it is to say nothing at all. Believing that is my present condition this evening I must beg of you to excuse me from addressing you further."

Makes Changes In Address.

In his room later Lincoln apparently made slight alterations in the text of his address that was unquestionably written before he left Washington for Gettysburg. There are many legends and stories about the composition of this immortal speech. It is widely accepted that the speech was written on the train on the way to the battlefield. But it is more than probable that Lincoln not only wrote the speech but labored over it thoughtfully before leaving the White House. Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate, then a very young secretary to the president of the railroad on which Lincoln was riding, once said that the President borrowed his pencil and with it wrote the Gettysburg Address as the train jolted along. There are even those who say that Lincoln wrote no speech, made no notes, but spoke from the inspiration of the moment.

But one thing certain is that the next day Lincoln sat quietly on the platform in the sunshine while Edward Everett swept the heavens with his oratory. Lincoln must have known how brief his own speech would seem to the thousands crowded around. When his time came he rose, adjusted his spectacles, stepped forward, glanced at his notes and began to speak. As Lincoln began, a photographer down front was bustling with his camera under an old-fashioned hood. Two minutes later the photographer was still under his hood getting ready to take the picture, but Abraham Lincoln had already said "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Thinks Address Is Failure.

As the President strode back to his chair he turned to a friend and remarked, "Lamon, that speech won't scour." He meant that it was a failure.

But Lincoln was wrong in his estimate. The Gettysburg Address is more quoted than any other utterance by a famous American, including even Washington's farewell address. Today the words are written in metal and stone in towns and hamlets all over America; they are used by orators and memorized by school children; they are cherished like priceless jewels by the American people.

In all, Lincoln made five copies of the address, changing a word or two in each. He delivered the address

from memory, holding in his hand the so-called second draft as he spoke. The address contains 272 words, of which 203 are words of one syllable.

Horace Greeley, for years one of Lincoln's bitterest critics, once said, "That little speech delivered at Gettysburg is the finest gem in American literature."

IANA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1941.

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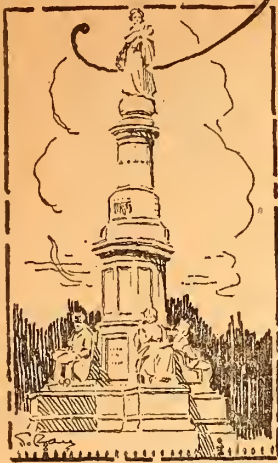
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(Our home service is today offering a replica of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's own handwriting and suitable for framing in your home. Turn to the home service feature on page 16. Also included among the reproductions of American patriotic documents are The Bill of Rights and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Lincoln's Immortal Address at Gettysburg Fell Flat



Only Scattering Applause

Greeted the Conclusion of what is now
Ranked as one of the World's Classics.

A BRAHAM LINCOLN'S Gettysburg address is today ranked as one of the immortal utterances of man. The truth, the faith that are voiced in it are eternal, historians say.

From the platforms of little white schoolhouses out on the prairie, from the flag decorated stands at Fourth of July celebrations, from the solemn rostrums of the centers of learning the Gettysburg address has been repeated times without number and doubtless will continue to be as long as the spirit of democracy lives on.

Yet, with the strangely limited view of those close at hand, the great address was considered a failure by many at the time it was delivered. Lincoln himself believed that he had failed to speak anything worthy of the occasion and was greatly downcast. The sense of his failure at such a momentous event added no little to the intolerable burdens that weighed upon him in 1863.

The daily newspapers of the North generally took little notice of Lincoln's words at Gettysburg, but were lavish in their praise of the long address delivered by Edward Everett, the great Boston orator, on the same occasion. The Patriot and Union, an influential newspaper published at Harrisburg, Pa., with an ability for misjudgment almost beyond all belief, said of the address:

The President succeeded on this occasion because he acted without sense and without constraint in a panorama that was gotten up for the benefit of his party more than for the glory of the Nation and the honor of the dead. * * * We pass over the silly remarks of the President, for the credit of the Nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion be dropped over them and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of.

Even the usually keen visioned John Hay, then Mr. Lincoln's assistant secretary, erred in his judgment of the comparative importance of the addresses made that November day at Gettysburg. Said Hay in his diary:

"Everett spoke, as he always does, perfectly; and the President, in a firm, free way, with more grace than is his wont, said his half-dozen lines of consecration."

Praise Only for Everett.

In Mr. Hay's mind, as in the minds of nearly all present, Edward Everett's address overshadowed all else on the pro-

the scant moments of leisure given him in those troubled days. That he did not complete it until a few hours before it was delivered is certain. In fact, he did not know until about two weeks before the date that he was expected to talk at all. The committee that had charge of the arrangements for the consecration of the national cemetery at Gettysburg had asked Mr. Everett a long time in advance and had postponed the date of the consecration from October 19 to November 19 at Mr. Everett's request.

Asked a "Few Appropriate Words." David Wills, a public spirited citizen of Gettysburg and the originator of the idea of a national cemetery there, wrote to President Lincoln on November 2, six weeks after Mr. Everett had been invited to speak, as follows:

The states having soldiers who were

at the White House, writing it in ink upon a sheet of executive letter paper. He finished it in pencil upon a sheet of foolscap the morning of the day he spoke at Gettysburg.

Some historians have maintained the President wrote his speech while on the train on the way to Gettysburg, but John G. Nicolay, his private secretary, said that this was not the case. Lincoln, he maintained, knew before that time what he should say and was plainly disturbed by the feeling that his address would not prove adequate.

Owing to the presence of thousands of visitors—parents of the dead who were to be reburied there, crippled soldiers, sightseers, officials from various states—the President and his party spent the night before the consecration at the Wills home. It was a crystal clear night. From the business section of the village rose the music of many bands that had come to take part in the ceremonies. Crowds of serenaders and glee clubs went from house to house, where there were notables, demanding speeches. Mr. Lincoln responded to a call, but declined to make a speech, saying only:

"In my position it is somewhat important that I should not say any foolish things. It very often happens that the only way to help it is to say nothing at all."

Secretary Seward's Queer Error.

Secretary Seward, who consented to make a speech, made the remarkable error of placing Gettysburg within the state of Maryland. His words rang with reproof, for he believed he was speaking to slaveholders or those who sympathized, at least, with the cause of slavery. David Wills, recalling Mr. Sew-

ard's speech, said that the secretary used the words:

"This is the first time that ever any people or community on this side of Mason and Dixon's line (meaning the southern side) was found willing to listen to my voice."

The following morning Mr. Lincoln rode at the head of the procession to the platform at the newly prepared cemetery, his tall, ungainly form slumped over his horse, his face set in its pathetic, homely lines. Only once did he relax. That was when a man held up a little girl as the President rode by. Mr. Lincoln grasped the child in his arms, kissed her and handed her back to the proud father. A shadow of a smile, gentle beyond all description, passed over the drawn face of the President, only to be replaced by that sad, absorbed look that had become so typical of him.

A prayer by the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, chaplain of the United States Senate, opened the program. It was an eloquent, though somewhat lengthy, effort and it breathed the spirit of victory rather than of humility. It was noon—the serene, sunlit, crisp noon of a perfect fall day—when the venerable Edward Everett arose to speak. His oration was modeled along classical lines, was filled with the eloquence so popular in that day and it held the multitude in rapt silence. Mr. Everett had long been a figure in public life, an ambassador, a member of the Cabinet, a governor, a speaker of great renown. Much was expected of him, and he gave all that was anticipated. The carefully chosen, exquisitely polished phrases, delivered in his deep, sonorous voice, fell with great effectiveness upon

his hearers. He reviewed the events that led to the war, described the battle and praised the heroes of the North who had died there. But vivid as was his phraseology, penetrating as was his logic, his address lacked the breadth that would have made it undying. There was a note of bitterness in it when he asked: "Which of the two parties to this war is responsible for all the suffering, for the dreadful sacrifice of life—the lawful and constitutional government of the United States or the ambitious men who have rebelled against it?" That same minor spirit crept into his words again and again when he referred to the "disloyal slaveholders" and the "aspiring politicians" of the South, and near his conclusion, when he said "the bonds of union are of perennial force and energy, while the causes of alienation are imaginary, fictitious and transient." It was essentially a speech of a Northerner for the North. A long roar of applause followed the close of his speech.

Silent for a Moment.

After the singing of a hymn the time came for Mr. Lincoln to speak. He arose slowly and for almost a minute he stood silent, surveying from his great height the waves of upturned faces, beyond them the broken stone walls of the bloody angle where Pickett's charge had failed and past that the undulating brown fields where the shattered brigades of the South had turned back. Farther than these things of the moment he must have gazed, off into the illimitable future of mankind for whose guidance he was soon to pronounce one of the most solemn obligations of history.

Then in the curiously high pitched voice that seemed so oddly fitted to his towering body, he began to speak. The crowd that had relaxed when Mr. Everett closed his long address, began to set itself for another lengthy speech. The brevity and simplicity of the President's words caught the crowd unawares. It had scarcely adjusted itself for listening before he had finished. There was silence as he bowed and turned back to his seat. The silence continued for a full minute, to be broken only by scattering applause. There had been handclapping here and there at pauses in his address, but it had not been general. The import of his words had not yet reached those who stood that day at Gettysburg. There must have been a throb of deeper pain

in the already aching heart of the big, awkward, sad faced man who walked with so little grace back across the platform and sank into his seat. Doubtless he felt, as he had feared, that his address had been a failure.

The singing of a dirge closed the program, and the President and other notables returned to the village. When the ceremonies were over Mr. Everett was one of the first to reach Lincoln's side.

"Mr. President," he began, "your speech—" but the President interrupted him, that shadow of a smile again crossing his face. He laid his hand upon Mr. Everett's shoulder.

"We'll manage not to talk about my speech, Mr. Everett," he said. "This isn't the first time that I've felt that my dignity ought not to permit me to be a public speaker."

After luncheon a reception was held at the home of David Wills and many of the townspeople and visitors greeted the President. Among those who gathered at the Wills home was Prof. Calvin Hamilton, who remarked afterwards upon the expression of sadness upon Mr. Lincoln's face. The President seemed listless, his thoughts far away, as he shook the hands of the hundreds who passed.

Late in the day he walked with John Burns, the village hero, to the town's little Presbyterian Church, where a patriotic service was held. He sat with Burns, the cobbler patriot, in one of the high-backed benches of the church, taking no part in the program. He was not asked to speak again while in Gettysburg. He had uttered the "few appropriate remarks" that had been asked of him.

REACTION

LINCOLN'S ADDRESS AT GRAVES IN EUROPE

1913

Memorial day ceremonies in France and Belgium this year will be more like those in the United States than ever before.

The Overseas Memorial Day Association, which is headed by Ambassador Myron T. Herrick, has collected sufficient funds to insure every mound marking the resting place of an American soldier—32,000 in France, 300-odd in Belgium—will have its tribute of flowers, while all central memorials, such as the doughboy's statue at Suresnes and the great flagpole at Romagne bearing the American banner at half staff will be heaped high with French roses, poppies and mar-guerites by the surrounding townsfolk.

The association has received valuable assistance from the Duchesse de Talleyrand, George Blumenthal and Anne Morgan, who are attempting a campaign to provide within the next twelve months funds sufficient to supply fitting decorations for every cemetery here during the next ten years.

French military bands will play America's national anthem on Memorial Day, and everywhere the French clergy are asking permission to collaborate with American ministers and priests in tribute to America's dead.

This year, for the first time, instead of sermons, the principal feature of the program will be the reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg address, the committee of the American Legion having decided that this represents better than any modern declaration can the real purposes for which thousands of American heroes volunteered their lives in the great war.

COMMENTS ON LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

By MATTHEW CALVIN.

of Hollidayburg, Pa. 1921

OCT 28

On the 19th day of November, 1863, the National Cemetery for Union soldiers, killed at the battle of Gettysburg, was formally dedicated in the presence of a vast concourse of people assembled from all parts of the country. They met on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The orator of the day was the distinguished Edward Everett, a highly gifted speaker. After him arose President Lincoln, who in a few well chosen words delivered one of the most remarkable addresses ever made. I have read the speech very many times and at each additional reading with increased admiration. It is an American classic and is universally so considered wherever read. What is there in this unrivalled production which causes it to be so very greatly admired? Is it the solemnity and prayerful attitude which pervade the orator throughout the address, in which he prays that "this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth?" Is it the exalted patriotism and devotion to duty which dominated the speaker? Is it the intensity of the grief manifested for the boys "who here gave their lives that that nation might live?" Is it the high regard and abiding affection which Mr. Lincoln always entertained for the soldiers? Is it the modesty and absence of self glorification of the orator which so favorably impresses the reader of this wonderful production? Is it the abhorrence of slavery and love of freedom for all people that the President showed? Or, is it the happy combination of all these queries united in a harmonious whole by this master mind? The directness of statement, simplicity of style, and absence of display give to this address the grandeur which so captivates the reader. It was received with silence by the audience. Not one word of applause was uttered. It was treated with the profound solemnity of a beautiful prayer which does not evoke applause. Mr. Lincoln was intellectually great and his goodness illuminated and adorned his intellect.

That Speech Won't Scour—

That is what Abraham Lincoln said when he had finished his Gettysburg address. He was wrong—the world did not soon forget “what we say here”

University of Chicago
3-12-25 By JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF. *DC*

Albert C. Wahlgren, Chicago, who suggested the following article to the Observer, says of Mr. Oakleaf, Moline attorney, who wrote these interesting sidelights on the life of Abraham Lincoln: “J. B. Oakleaf is known throughout the country as an authority on anything pertaining to Lincoln. Oakleaf’s library and collection of Lincoln relics would furnish much of interest for an article on Mr. Lincoln.”

The life of Abraham Lincoln should be a guiding star for every boy in the United States, especially so if that boy has been brought up in penury and want, or compelled to shift for himself. The foundation of Abraham Lincoln’s career is based upon one word, “Honesty.” He, himself, selected that as a cornerstone upon which his edifice of life should be built.

In 1911, I received a letter from W. S. Matthews, assistant Adjutant General, Department of Ohio, G. A. R., and among other things concerning Lincoln, he said:

“Abraham Lincoln is a wonderful theme to talk about or write about. He seems to me to be the most unexplainable man in all history, at least, in our American life. I simply cannot account for him by any process of reasoning from general principles. The least schooling, yet the most educated. The poorest, yet the richest. The least pretensions, yet the most fascinating. The commonest of men, yet all pay deference

ple wanted to know.” Mr. Lincoln, after a few moments of silence, said, “I guess you are right, Mr. Wharton. I tell you what I will do. You offer a resolution (and he stated what kind of resolution he wanted him to introduce), then I will address the audience again.” Mr. Wharton waited about half an hour before he had a chance to introduce the resolution, and then Mr. Lincoln came onto the platform, as if it were new to him and he did not know anything about it, and made the ringing speech that has gone down into history. The reason the speech was so good was that he was prepared.

Take the speeches he made on his way to his inaugural; in those cities where he was expected to speak and was prepared, the speeches were fine, but in those places where he was called out to say a few words and did not expect it, his speeches were very poor, and not a bit like Lincoln as we know him; so the speeches and letters that have gone down into history are those upon which he had given some thought and time.

Let us take the Gettysburg address, for example: One of his early biographers, an Illinois man, tells us that Lincoln picked up an old cardboard from the floor of the car on his way to Gettysburg and scratched off the Get-

the Gettysburg battle field. Since it would take him two days to get there and two days to return, and longer to prepare his address, the earliest he could promise to be ready would be November 19 and that was the day set.

President Lincoln prepared the first half of the address at Washington, and the other half after he reached Gettysburg, at the home of Mr. Wills, whose guest he was. After getting the address in the form in which it was delivered, he sent it over to Secretary Seward, who was the guest of another resident of Gettysburg, for his approval for all students

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By JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF. *Special to the Chicago Tribune*

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"Abraham Lincoln is a wonder. I theme to talk about or write about. He seems to me to be the most unexpendable man in all history, at least, in our American life. I simply cannot account for him by any process of reasoning from A to Z. He was the best educated, yet the most educated. The poorest, yet the richest. The least pretentious, yet the most fascinating. The commonest of men, yet all pay reverence to him. He was the least promising figure, yet no man ever lived that has left to future a legacy so great. He was a remarkable character and he grows more remarkable as time passes."

No one, who is at all familiar with the life of Lincoln, will say that the foregoing is untrue.

I have read all the leading biographies of Abraham Lincoln, and a great deal of other matter, such as does not appear in book form, and it seems that many are prone to belittle Lincoln's early life in order to make his later career appear as if it were a sort of "story of Aladdin's Lamp," but if a person will read the different biographies and pay particular attention to the contents, they will know that Abraham Lincoln was a "plodder." Before attempting anything, he would spend a great deal of time in thinking the matter over.

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(August 1911, Chicago) Observer—Rock Island

2-12-25 By JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF. D.C. 1911

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WORDS OF HISTORY.

Gettysburg is, perhaps, the highest point in our history, and upon Cemetery Hill, which crowns the battle-field, our history was crowned in a two-fold sense. Here, virtually, our cause was won, and here its coronation took place. Great deeds were acted on the second and third days of July, and in the apotheosis of the fallen heroes, the dedication of the 19th of November, the shadows and spirits of great things came forth. It might be as the law was given from God, and came down from Sinai, so an immortal spirit came from the hill of the dead, a monument and a burial ground alike to our heroes, and passed out among the people, into the war, and into history. Certainly the occasion was sublime; certainly the ruler of the nation never stood higher, and grander, and more prophetic. On that historic height it was proper he should utter words such as these:

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus so far nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that governments of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

At the same altar Mr. EVERETT unbound the sublime thought of the Greek orator, and gave it noble completion: "The whole earth is the sepulchre of the brave;" and he added, "all time is the millenium of their glory." General MEADE, who won the victory, wrote for his soldiers, what ordinarily would not be so significant: "This army has duties to perform which will not admit of its being represented on the occasion." With great tenderness Secretary CHASE wrote of our heroes: "It consoles me to think what tears of mingled grief and triumph will fall upon their graves, and what benedictions of the country, saved by their heroism, will make their memories sacred among men." And in a speech before the dedication, the Secretary of State said, thanking God for his belief that this was our last fraternal strife, and that it would end in the removal of slavery—"Then we shall know that we are not enemies, but that we are friends and brothers. Then we shall know that this Union is a reality, and we shall mourn, I am sure, with sincerity, equally over the grave of the misguided, whom we have consigned to his last resting-place, with pity for his error, and with the same heartfelt grief with which we mourn over his brothers, by whose hand, raised in defence of his Government, that misguided brother perished."

EDITORS AND THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

The New York Times of Thursday contained an editorial on Lincoln's Gettysburg address and the ~~strange failure of editors~~ to appreciate its beauty and eloquence at the time of its delivery. The New York Times of the day referred editorially to the speech of Edward Everett, regarded as the chief orator of the Gettysburg occasion, but did not mention Lincoln's address. The New York World was similarly unimpressed by it, and the Tribune merely quoted a few words from it without commenting in any way upon its quality. Dr. William E. Barton, in his book on the Gettysburg address, published last year, reached the conclusion after a thorough investigation that almost nobody realized that a masterpiece of literature had been uttered.

Examination of the files of the St. Louis Democrat, progenitor of the Globe-Democrat, reveals no editorial comment on the address, although it was a strong supporter of Lincoln, and it printed the long oration of Everett as well as the brief one of the President. A few years ago Prof. Daniel K. Dodge of the University of Illinois investigated this curious apathy and presented the results of his research in a chapter in his little book entitled, "Abraham Lincoln, Master of Words." He found but four newspapers that gave any praise to Lincoln's address. They were the Springfield (Mass.) Weekly Republican, the Boston Transcript, the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin and the Providence Journal; and of these, only one, the Providence Journal, saw in it something of those superlative values that are now universally accredited to it. The Journal said:

"We know not where to look for a more admirable speech than the brief one which the President made at the close of Mr. Everett's oration. It is often said that the hardest thing in the world is to make a five-minute speech. But could the most elaborate and splendid oration be more beautiful, more touching, more inspiring, than those thrilling words of the President? They had in our humble judgment the charm and power of the very highest eloquence."

But editors were not alone in this failure to appreciate the Lincoln address. Apparently there were few of all those who heard or read the speech at the time who were greatly impressed by it. No doubt that was because of its extreme brevity and simplicity, because it was overshadowed by the sheer bulk of Everett's address and the great fame of the latter as an orator, and because the people had not then learned to look for literary values in what Lincoln said.

ST. LOUIS MO. GLOBE-DEMOCRAT
FEB. 15, 1931 F25

Notes and News

On January 24 *The Nation*, commenting editorially on the New York *Times*'s merry habit of contradicting its news in its headlines, made some guesses at how the *Times* would probably announce such a matter, say, as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. "More than likely," that editorial concluded, "its heavy headline on the Gettysburg occasion would have been 'Everett Delivers Masterly Oration'; and a sub-head would have announced that 'President Lincoln Also Spoke.'" A hardy contributor has dived into the files of the *Times* and has brought up pearls. We were truer than we knew. The actual headlines for November 20, 1863, were as follows: "A Solemn and Imposing Event. Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. Immense Numbers of Visitors. Oration by Hon. Edward Everett. Speeches of President Lincoln, Mr. Seward, and Governor Seymour." The address by Everett was given in full; and it was elaborately analyzed as a "classic and ornate oration." No comment on Lincoln's speech was thought necessary, but the day before there had been this much about it: "President Lincoln's brief address was delivered in a clear, loud tone of voice, which could be distinctly heard at the extreme limits of the large assemblage. It was delivered (or rather read from a sheet of paper which the speaker held in his hand) in a very deliberate manner, with strong emphasis, and a most business-like air."

It is but just to the *Times* to say that it was in good New York company by such obtuseness. The *Herald* published the full text of Everett's speech and omitted Lincoln's, without, indeed, any other reference to the President than to say he had been at the cemetery. The *Tribune* gave the full text of both speeches but obviously saw nothing particular in Lincoln's.

OLD-TIME PARTISANSHIP.

Some time ago we had something to say about the abuse which was heaped upon Lincoln by his political opponents during the Civil War. Then we quoted from a Democratic paper published at Washington, Pa. A day or so ago we ran across the comments of the Harrisburg, Pa., Patriot, another Democratic paper, upon the Gettysburg Address which now has come to be recognized as

an English classic. Here it is:

"The President succeeded on this occasion because he acted without sense and without constraint in a panorama that was gotten up more for the benefit of his party than for glory of the nation and the honor of the dead. We pass over the silly remarks of the President; for the credit of the nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of."

In reading the wonderfully beautiful address one wonders how even an intense partisan could find anything in it to criticize adversely, but feeling ran so high then that it was not possible for Mr. Lincoln to do anything the opposition were not ready to condemn.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, often considered the acme of American oratorical effort, was almost ignored at the time it was delivered. None of the big papers said much of anything about it. The Patriot and Union, published at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, very near to Gettysburg, sneered at the speech. It said in reporting the event:

"We pass over the silly remarks of the president; for the credit of all the nation, we are willing the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them, and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of."

Other hostile papers referred to Lincoln's speech as a "Political harangue."

All of which goes to show how easy it is for great presidents to be assailed, misrepresented and slandered by cheap politicians.

Historical Perspective.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Apropos of your editorial in regard to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the following, which I cut from a paper in 1919, may be of interest to your readers.

"In the perspective of history an official often receives a different rating from that given by contemporaries. Take this comment, for example:

"The President succeeded on this occasion because he acted without sense and without restraint in a panorama which was gotten up more for the benefit of his party than for the glory of the nation and the honor of the dead.

"We pass over the silly demands of the President. For the credit of the nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of."

This is not an extract from an editorial in The New York Sun or THE NEW YORK TIMES. Nor were the sentiments quoted above taken from any of the public utterances of Senator Poindexter or Senator Sherman or Senator McCormick. They are from an editorial that was printed in The Harrisburg Patriot and Union on Nov. 24, 1863; the President in question was Abraham Lincoln—the "silly remarks" were the Gettysburg Address.

LUCILLE R. AMOLA,
Garrison, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1931.

*The ceremony was
underestimated
by some of the leaders of
that poor President Lincoln.
Anything more dull and
commonplace it would
not be easy to produce*

*American Crossroads
London Times*

See page 49

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LUCILLE R. AMOLA.

Garrison, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1931.

Woman Who Reported Lincoln Gettysburg Address Honored

HANOVER (Pa.) Nov. 16. (AP) Reward finally came today for the girl reporter who gained a unique place among journalists of her time by acclaiming Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as a "remarkable speech."

Three days before the 78th anniversary of the Civil War President's immortal words, townspeople unveiled an eight-foot shaft on the Mt. Olivet Community Cemetery grave of Mary Shaw Leader. It bears her likeness along with this inscription:

"Her first hand report of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address bore witness to its greatness. In her account for the Hanover Spectator she garnered Lincoln's words from his own lips. She helped the world to long remember. Her fellow townsmen pay this belated tribute to her cour-

age, enterprise and foresight that we may never forget."

Mary Shaw Leader walked 15 miles to Gettysburg through wintry weather to report the President's talk Nov. 19, 1863. She carried his full three-minute text in the weekly Hanover newspaper while most journalists gave their space to Principal Speaker Edward Everett's flowery oration of nearly two hours or merely announced that Lincoln also spoke.

Miss Leader died in 1913 during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg to which she was uninvited. Her grave was unmarked until Job Printer William Anthony originated the idea of erecting a monument in remembrance of her courteous treatment while he was an apprentice at the newspaper where she worked. Townspeople subscribed \$402 for the memorial.

Leo A. Tamm
Nov 17 - 1961

"A FEW REMARKS."

Daily Newspapers Saw Nothing in the Gettysburg Address.

Sioux City Journal.

The Muscatine Journal has been digging back into its files to see what it said about the dedication of the Gettysburg battlefield as a national cemetery on No. 19, 1863, and discovers that Hon. Edward Everett "delivered the oration, which was listened to with profound attention," while President Lincoln "also made a few appropriate remarks."

The Muscatine paper has little reason to apologize for its seeming lack of appreciation of the merit of these "few appropriate remarks." It is doubtful if any of the newspapers of 1863 had the slightest notion that the brief speech that President Lincoln delivered on that occasion was destined to be immortal. The only newspaper of that time in the files in this office is the Cedar Falls Gazette. In one issue it briefly chronicled the fact that "the consecration of the soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., took place yesterday," and in the next week's issue it mentioned a speech Lincoln, nor by Mr. Everett, but by which was made—not by President Governor Seymour, of New York. D. Appleton & Co.'s Annual Encyclopedia for 1863 mentions the dedication but says nothing of President Lincoln's address. Like the Muscatine Journal, contemporary publications recognized in Lincoln's brief pronouncement nothing more than a "few appropriate remarks," and left it for the future to come to know their beauty and strength.

Authorities differ as to how the Gettysburg address came into being. Isaac Arnold, one of the best known of Lincoln's many biographers, says it was "in the cars on his way from the white house to the battle field" that Lincoln was informed that he would be expected to say something, and thereupon he jotted down in pencil the brief address which, a few hours later, after Mr. Everett had delivered what was supposed to be the "oration of the day," he read to the field. But Messrs. Nicolay and Hay assembled multitude on the battle in their biography offer in evidence the note of invitation, dated November 2, in which Lincoln was notified that "it is the desire that, after the oration, you, as chief executive of the nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks" (just what the Muscatine Journal reported that he delivered), so it would seem that, after all, Lincoln had some time to give to preparation of the speech, although of course he may have delayed putting his thoughts on paper until the eleventh hour.

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here," said President Lincoln. It is true that the world of that day, as reflected in the Muscatine Journal and the Cedar Falls Gazette and hundreds of other newspapers, took little note of what was said at Gettysburg by Mr. Lincoln, but as for its being remembered, it will be treasured by the republic as a part of its heritage as long as the republic shall last.

*Gettysburg Star
and Sentinel.
Nov. 26, 1913.*

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Story of the Dedication of the National Cemetery as Told in the "Adams Sentinel" of Nov. 24, 1863.

Consecration

OF THE

SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY

AT GETTYSBURG.

IMMENSE CONCOURSE OF PEOPLE

Military and Civil Procession.

EDWARD EVERETT'S ORATION.

Address of President Lincoln.

"Thursday, the 19th, was a great day in the history of Gettysburg—second only in interest to the first, second and third days of July last.

"The influx of strangers commenced last Monday, and the trains became heavier and heavier as the day of consecration approached. On Wednesday, Wednesday night and Thursday morning, trains arrived every few hours swelling the crowd to immense proportions.

"Day dawned on Thursday with an unclouded sky, giving assurance of lovely weather. The streets swarmed with people from all sections of the Union, the number variously estimated at from twenty to forty thousand. Every available spot on the principal streets was occupied. The throng of ladies and gentlemen, the large turnout of military in their best trim, the flags floating in the breeze at innumerable points—all contributed to making up a picture of rare and exciting interest.

"About ten o'clock the line of procession was formed, and moved forward to the grounds of the Cemetery in the following order:

"Marine Band

"Second United States Artillery

"United States Regular Cavalry, from Carlisle Barracks.

"Major General Couch and Staff.

General Stahl and Staff.

"Twentieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, one hundred and twenty in number, under the command of Col. Stickney.

"Colonel Prevost, of Philadelphia, and Staff.

"Battery A, Fifth United States Regulars.

"Major General Schenck and Staff.

"Band of Fifth New York Heavy Artillery.

"Fifth New York Heavy Artillery Regiment under command of Colonel Murry.

"The President of the United States, attended by Vice-President Hamlin, Secretary Seward of the State Department, Secretary Usher of the Department of the Interior, Secretary Welles of the Navy Department, and Post Master General Blair, escorted by Chief Marshal Ward B. Lamon and Aides—Brigadier General Wright, General Doubleday and General Gibbon, attended by their staffs.

"Commissioners of the different States.

"United States Sanitary Commission, numbering twenty men, under command of Dr. W. F. Sewall.

"Odd Fellows Lodge Number 124, of Gettysburg, numbering two hundred and fifty men, with the Gettysburg Encampment of the same order.

"Hanover Lodge I. O. O. F. Number 334, one hundred strong with Odd Fellows of other places.

"Baltimore Delegation consisting of members of Councils of Baltimore and Civil Officials.

"Birgfield's Band, of Philadelphia.

"Faculty and Students of the College and Seminary.

"Several hundred citizens, comprising delegations from the several States.

"Carriages containing citizens from the different States and the surrounding country.

"The procession started promptly at the time indicated, 10 o'clock A. M., and moved over the route previously arranged. By the time the President, accompanied by the different members of the Cabinet, entered the Cemetery grounds, the stand erected in the center of the same was surrounded by at least twenty thousand citizens. Several thousand of whom were congregated immediately in front of the stand, the immense crowd being interspersed with Chief Marshals, aides and officers of different grades.

"A cordon of soldiers was placed in the form of a circle outside the crowd congregated near the stand and entirely surrounding it, beyond which thousands of citizens clustered in surging masses, endeavoring to get a glimpse of the stand. Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, Chaplain of the United States Senate, then arose and offered a most impressive prayer.

"During the offering of this most eloquent prayer the most profound silence prevailed and many were affected to tears. The touching pathos of the venerable divine, the occasion and the scene presented, was at once most affecting, and not a few eyes not accustomed to weep were bathed in tears.

"The President evidently felt deeply and with the venerable Statesman and patriot, Hon. Edward Everett, who was by his side, seemed not ashamed to let their sympathetic tears be seen.

"Never has it been our privilege to behold a more grand and imposing scene than was now presented to the eye. Standing upon the platform, the whole battlefield spread out like a panorama before the beholder.

"In the distance the surrounding hills where, on the memorable days of July, stood the Rebel invaders, dimly seen through the November mists, on either hand and beneath us the very heights so heroically defended by our gallant troops against the fierce assaults of the Rebel hosts, the graves of the fallen, the thronging multitudes surrounding the stand, the glittering bayonets of the troops, their flags and banners draped in mourning, all made up a picture which for impressiveness could scarcely be excelled, and which language can but faintly represent.

"At the conclusion of the prayer the band very appropriately performed the grand old hymn of Luther's "Old Hundred." Hon. Edward Everett's speech followed.

* * * * *

Closing Ceremonies.

"At the conclusion of the oration, which was listened to with most earnest attention, the following hymn composed by Hon. B. B. French, was sung by the Baltimore Glee Club, in a manner that elicited the admiration of all.

"'Tis Holy ground—

This spot, where in their graves,
We place our country's braves,

Who fell in Freedom's holy cause
Fighting for Liberties and Laws—
Let tears abound.

"Here let them rest—
And Summer's heat and Winter's cold,
Shall grow and freeze above this mould
A thousand years shall pass away—
A nation still shall mourn this clay,
Which now is blest.

"Here, where they fell,
Oft shall the widow's tear be shed,
Oft shall fond parents mourn their dead,
The orphan here shall kneel and weep,
And maidens, where their lovers sleep,
Their woes shall tell.

"Great God in Heaven !
Shall all this sacred blood be shed—
Shall we thus mourn our glorious dead,
Or shall the end be wrath and woe,
The kaell of Freedom overthrow—
A Country riven ?

"It will not be
We trust, O God ! Thy Gracious Power
To aid us in our darkest hour,
This be our prayer—"Oh Father save
A people's Freedom from its grave—
All praise to Thee !"

"The President then delivered the following dedicatory remarks :

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. [Applause] Now, we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any other nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war; we are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. [Applause] The world will little note nor long remember what we may say here; but it can never forget what they did here. [Applause]

"It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. [Applause] It is rather for us here to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve

that those dead shall not have died in vain.—[Applause] That the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that governments of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." [Long continued applause]

"After the ceremonies were concluded, a salute was fired by the artillery, and the military portion of the procession re-formed and escorted the President to his lodgings, where he was subsequently visited by a large number of persons, and more than an hour was the victim of "hand shaking" that must have tested his good nature to the utmost. The President returned to Washington in a special train, which left Gettysburg about 7 o'clock.

"A Dirge was then sung with fine effect, after which the Benediction was pronounced, and the throng of people dispersed and returned towards town. The celebration was complete, and not the slightest accident occurred to mar its success.

"Among the distinguished personages here were, we understand, nine Foreign Ministers; Ex-Secretary Cameron, Governor Curtin, Auditor General Slenker, Surveyor General Barr, State Treasurer McGrath, Adjutant General Russel, of Pennsylvania, Governor Seymour, of New York, Gov. Tod, of Ohio, Governor-elect Brough, of Ohio, Governor Morton, of Indiana, Ex-Governor Wright, of Indiana, Gov. Bradford, of Maryland, Ex-Governor Pierpont, of West Virginia, and many others of lesser note.

"President Lincoln and party left late in the evening in a special car. Gov. Curtin and the heads of the Departments left later in the night. Other trains followed, taking away thousands of passengers.

"On Friday morning the crowd of persons, notwithstanding the departure during the night, was still great, nearly all of whom spent the day visiting the various points of interest on the battle-field. These, nearly all, left on Friday evening and Saturday morning, when the town settled down into its old-time quiet.

"The military arrangements, by General Couch, were admirable. Marshal Lamont also performed his part well, as did D. Wills, Esq., the agent for Governor Curtin. Capt. McCurdy had the railroad as efficiently worked as possible.

Incidents of the Occasion.

"The Hon William H. Seward, Secretary of State, was serenaded at his lodgings in the Square, and acknowledged the compliment by making a brief speech. * * * * *

"The President was serenaded twice during the evening, and his appearance excited bursts of enthusiasm—showing the strong hold he has upon the affec-

tions of the people. He made but a few remarks, but they were characteristic of the pure and honest President.

"Toward the close of the afternoon an incident occurred which must ever be inseparable from this occasion and which deserves a place in the story of the war as a noble representative fact. At the request of the President, a committee waited on the brave old man, John Burns, who fought in three of our wars, it is said, and who, at the Battle of Gettysburg, dressed himself in his Sunday clothes and went into the fight, which he did not leave until he had received three wounds. It need hardly be told how that patriot of the people, the honest *pater patriae*, Father Abraham, received this brave and venerable man. The greeting was extremely cordial—the "God bless you, old man" of the nation in the person of the President.

Arm in arm with the president and the Secretary of State, John Burns went to the church in the evening. Cheering to the President, in his great office, must be this simple event—most cheering to the declining years of the "brave John Burns." In this touching incident, perhaps, more than any other Gettysburg was truly dedicated.

"According to announcement at 5 o'clock P. M. Colonel Anderson, Lieut. Gov. elect of Ohio, delivered an able address in the Presbyterian church. The building was filled to repletion by an intelligent and highly respectable audience. The President of the United States and suite, with several of the Governors of States occupied seats in the pulpit. The orator was introduced by Ex-Governor Dennison, of Ohio, and commenced his oration by a general reference to the occasion, which had called together such a vast assemblage. The address was a bold and noble exposition of the causes which led to the present war, the issues involved in the contest, and the importance of its determination. It was that original first human conflict between freedom and despotism which was to end in the triumph of one or the other.

"In the interval before the procession, thousands traveled off to the battle-field, visiting the Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill, the Round Top mountain, and the fields around the Taneytown Road. The ground in these vicinities is yet strewn with the remains and relics of the fearful struggle, ragged and muddy knapsacks, canteens, cups, haversacks, thread bare stockings trodden in the mud, old shoes, pistols, holsters, bayonet sheaths, and here and there fragments of gray and blue jackets—mournful and appealing mementoes of the civil strife whose victory would be shreds and tatters; like these rage, were it not so nobly purchased for so glorious a cause. Hides and skeletons of horses still remain upon

the ground. Grave marks of unrecognized heroes were in every quarter of the field, and rows of graves ranged along the line of the stone or wooden fences, which had afforded shelter to the sharpshooters. A ravine, up which the Rebels had charged towards the stone fence flanking Culp's Hill, was yet full of these forlorn remnants of the battle, so indicative and so eloquent, that imagination had little task to call back the daring charge of the greybacks up the hill, and the still fiercer defense and onslaught of the determined and inex-

orable men whose resistless bravery was victory ordained, and who proved that if the rebels fought well in the South, the loyal soldiers fought even better in the North. Melancholy but glorious vestiges. Here fell our braves, sometimes stricken down like grass, wathes, still with their feet to the foe, or irregular strewn about where death was sown in every field and furrow. Here they dropped down dead and dying, to the infinite of our physical universe, not more than so many sparrows falling; but to the moral progress of the world representatives, causes and martyrs. These men, it is said, die without name and make no sign; but here they gave their sign masonic, their death grasp, and the whole world is in the secret. They are distinguished in the great appellations of Victory and Freedom, and their name is Legion. They died saints and martyrs in a certain sense, but left rich relics—only battered canteens, ragged blouses, torn haversacks and wretched shoes. Think of how they marched under the burden of eight days' supplies overloaded with knapsacks and blankets a hundred of miles in the hot pursuit of the enemy; think of, how they fought and fell and won—and we should feel less tender than the good women who bandaged their piteous wounds and less inspired than the orators and poets who shall pronounce their glory.

"The hot shell shattering in its fall,

The bayonets rendering wedge;

Here scattered death—but search the spot,

No traces thine eyes can see;

No altar and they need it not

Who leave their children free."

"Thus wrote of another battle-field one of our poets; we may accept his feeling if not his words. Traces of this great battle must indelibly remain. An altar will rise worthy of the grandeur of the struggle, worthy of the future of the nation. The dead will rest in sanctuary, and Gettysburg be forever a shrine of pilgrimage.

"Crowds unable to hear the speakers wandered in every direction over the battle-ground. A party under General Gibbon rode over to Broad Top hill, where the rebels made on of their fiercest assaults. One visitor to the battle-ground rode a horse which General Lee himself had confiscated, in the vicinity and used during the battle. Hun-

dreds gathered up, to bear with them the spirit of Gettysburg to every quarter of the State, relics more eloquent than the orations. The memory of the day and especially the profound impressiveness of the hallowed battle-ground, will never leave them.

The Governors, generally conspicuous by their individual character, were more or less congregated as loyal Governors, like loyal States should be, and formed at one time a very interesting group. Gov. Curtin, straight, tall, clear-faced, was probably the handsomest gentleman

in the party; Seymour, with his quick eyes, gentlemanly bearing, and bland and polished manners, might claim to divide the honor. John Brough, is truly represented in his name—a corpulent, farmer-like, homespun, Western man, with a full rosy countenance. It deserves mention as perhaps the most edifying and remarkable incident of the scene, that courtly Governor Seymour and the rough Ohio Governor greeted each other most cordially. "Where is Vallandigham," asked Governor Seymour, with dry pleasantry, "In Canada," said Brough laconically. These two representative Governors were afterwards seen walking down the line of the road engaged in a friendly dialogue. What they said is left to speculation and can not be reported. But Mr. Brough did not quarrel and Governor Seymour was apparently satisfied.

The Celebration at Gettysburg

"It gives us heartfelt satisfaction as it has done all others, to say that the late celebration at our now classic town, was (to use words from every mouth) "a perfect success." We could not but admire the systematic arrangement, the beautiful order which prevailed throughout the whole ceremonies, amidst the immense assemblage that filled our village, and all the splendid grounds which surround it, showing to all our visitors a beautiful scenery, independent of the glorious battle-field, with all its interesting recollections. So far as we had an opportunity of association with our visitors from abroad, they all have gone to their homes with bright and pleasant remembrances of our interesting town. To all of us this thought is gratifying. One writer from abroad says: "The presence of so large a number of distinguished persons, and the brilliant and crowded

flowing in of the military and the people, made Gettysburg famous for the second time. It has two very marked periods in its history and here its record may close the Battle of Gettysburg and its solemn celebration; but this is glory enough for all time.

During the evening of Wednesday last a number of our distinguished visitors were serenaded at their lodgings. Among them the President of the United States; Gov. Seward, Secretary of State, Gov. Seymour, of New York; Mr. Blair, Postmaster General; General Schenck, the French and Italian Ministers, etc. In most of these instances there were neat and appropriate responses. There was so much to hear and so much to record,

that a very large amount has to remain unsung by our weeklies. It must suffice for us to say, that our town has been the scene of much to interest. Our citizens have met many of the officials of the land, and have been gratified. Those gentlemen have left us for their homes, and official duties, and carry with them the kindest feelings and regards for the citizens of Gettysburg and County. They have found much in the associations surrounding the glorious battle-field; the marked grounds of the National Cemetery. The beautiful scenery which was all around them, as the eye caught at a glance the whole of that theatre of terrible battle strife, with all its surroundings; and will have much to think of and relate for years. We have the great gratification to know, as we do, that Gettysburg, independent of all the glorious



Courtesy of W. H. Tipton
oto taken by Tyson Bros. from a position in Welty's field, just north of Jennie Wade House. It sho
the crowd returning to town after the exercises, November 19th, 1863.

LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SPEECH

Ward Lemon Says It Was Unappreciated When Delivered. 686

Chicago Tribune: A day or two, before the dedication of the National cemetery at Gettysburg, Mr. Lincoln told me that he would be expected to make a speech on the occasion; that he was extremely busy, with no time for preparation, and that he greatly feared that he would not be able to acquit himself with credit, much less to fill the measure of public expectation. From his hat (the usual receptacle of his private notes and memoranda) he drew a page of foolscap, closely written, which he read to me, first remarking that it was a memorandum of what he intended to say. It proved to be in substance, and, I think, in hæc verba, what was printed as his Gettysburg speech.

After its delivery he expressed deep regret that he had not prepared it with greater care. He said to me on the stand immediately after concluding the speech: "Lamon, that speech won't soar! It is a flat failure, and the people are disappointed." He seemed more than ordinarily concerned about what the people would think of it. I was deeply impressed by his frank and regretful condemnation of the effort, and especially by his manner of expressing that regret, and my own impression was deepened by the fact that the orator of the day, Mr. Everett, and Mr. Seward both coincided with Mr. Lincoln in his unfavorable view of its merits.

The occasion was solemn, impressive and grandly historic. The people stood spell-bound, it is true. The vast throng was hushed and awed into profound silence while Mr. Lincoln read his brief address; but it seemed that this silence and attention to his words arose more from the solemnity of the ceremonies and the awful scenes which gave occasion to them than from anything the president said. On the platform from which Mr. Lincoln made his address, and only a moment after its conclusion, Mr. Seward turned to Mr. Everett and asked him what he thought of the president's speech. Mr. Everett replied: "It was not what I expected from him; I am disappointed." In his turn Mr. Everett asked: "What do you think of it, Mr. Seward?" The response was: "He has made a failure, and I am sorry for it; his speech is not equal to him." Mr. Seward then turned to me and asked: "Mr. Marshal, what do you think of it?" "I am sorry to say it does not impress me as one of his great speeches." In the face of these facts it has been repeatedly published that this speech was received with great éclat by the audience; that amid the tears, sobs, and cheers it produced in the excited throng the orator of the day, Mr. Everett, turned impulsively to Mr. Lincoln, grasped his hand, and exclaimed: "I congratulate you on your success!" adding in a transport of enthusiasm: "Ah, Mr. President, how gladly would I give all my hundred pages to be the author of your twenty lines!"

All this unworthy gush, it is needless to say, is purely apocryphal. Nothing of the kind occurred. It is an afterthought—merely rhetorical bombast—gotten up to serve the purpose of baseless adulation. It is a slander on Mr. Everett, an injustice to Mr. Lincoln, and a falsification of history. Mr. Everett could not have used the words attributed to him in the face of his openly-expressed condemnation of Mr. Lincoln's speech, without subjecting himself to the just charge of being a hypocrite, and he was neither one nor the other. As a matter of

fact, Mr. Lincoln's great Gettysburg speech fell on the vast audience like a wet blanket. At that time his reputation was confessedly on the wane. The politicians of the country—those of his own party, together with a large part of the press—were casting about for an available candidate to be his successor, while a great majority of the people were for him. I state it as a fact, and without fear of contradiction, that this famous Gettysburg speech was not received or commented upon with anything like hearty favor by the people, the politicians or the press of the United States until after the death of its author. Its marvelous perfection and its intrinsic excellence as a masterpiece of English composition seemed to have escaped the scrutiny of the most scholarly critics and the wisest heads of that day on this side of the Atlantic. That discovery was made, we must regretfully see, by distinguished writers on the other side. The London Spectator, the Saturday Review, the Edinburgh Review, and other English journals were the first to discover, or at least to proclaim, the classical merits of the Gettysburg speech. It was then that we began to realize that it was indeed a masterpiece, and it then dawned upon many minds that we had entertained an angel unawares who had left us unappreciated.

WARD LAMON.

Probably in February

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J. WRIGHT

1889

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG.

Interesting Historical Facts Regarding a Now Famous Oration.

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It was then that we began to realize that it was indeed a masterpiece, and it then dawned upon many minds that we had entertained an angel unawares who had left us unappreciated.—*Ward Lamon, in Indianapolis News.*

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Two Hundred and Seventy-two Words

The Gettysburg address of Abraham Lincoln comprises 272 words. In comment on it, in appreciation of it, in citation of facts or contentions about how it was written, how it was delivered, how it was received and in correlative discussions, thousands upon thousands of words have been written and published. By general estimate the Gettysburg address is accorded first standing among the great speeches of American history.

The tribute of this high acclaim has been tardy. There was no symptom of it at Gettysburg on that eventful day. Lincoln's audience was not even attentive. They had already undergone the gruelling punishment of standing on a raw November day through a two-hour oration by Edward Everett. His was a fine oration, but too long by far. When he had finished many of the exhausted 15,000 who had been listening started for the exits. Some of them, when they observed that the president had been introduced and was beginning to speak, began crowding their way back toward the speaker's rostrum. The result was a confusion of milling people who, because of their milling, could not give full attention to the speaker's words and of others who had kept their places but whose hearing of the address was greatly hindered by the noise of those who were milling about. Very apparently the people, with the precedent of Everett's two hours still poignantly upon them, thought the president would go on and on. But in two minutes and thirty-five seconds after he had begun Lincoln completed delivery of his 272 words in ten sentences and sat down.

The crowd was taken by surprise at the abruptness of the thing. Doubtless, worn and surfeited as they were, they were relieved also. And thus it was that the greatest speech of all our history was received in near silence and that the man who had risen to unparalleled heights in its conception, its composition and its delivery thought that the speech was a failure and that he had failed.

True it is that testimony as to how the speech was received is not unanimously of one trend. Joseph Tausek, in his "True Story of the Gettysburg Address," records that a score of witnesses, present on the occasion, gave conflicting accounts later of what they had seen and heard. Among them were a few who declared there was loud applause. Benjamin French, who contributed a hymn which was sung for the occasion and who was present, wrote in his diary three days later: "Anyone who saw and heard the hurricane of applause that met his (Lincoln's) every word at Gettysburg would know that he lived in every heart." Others testified similarly. The best guess one can make is that in certain small sections of the crowd of 15,000 there may have been applause. One in the center of such a group might conclude that the applause was general.

Preponderance of credibility and evidence is on the side of those who contend that Lincoln's words aroused no enthusiasm nor evoked acclaim. Ward Hill Lamon introduced the president and sat close beside him as he spoke. In the book of his "Recollections" Lamon says that "the silence during the delivery of the speech and the lack of hearty demonstrations of approval after its

close were taken by Mr. Lincoln as certain proof that it was not well received. In that opinion we all shared." Lamon also relates that Lincoln said to him, while yet on the stand after delivering his speech: "Lamon, that speech won't scour. It is a flat failure and the people are disappointed."

John Hay was a member of the president's party. In his diary entry of the day's events he makes only passing mention, totally without appreciation, of Lincoln's speech. Seward was there and made no favorable comment. Nicolay was present, but it was not until thirty years later that he wrote glowingly of the Gettysburg address. Wayne MacVeagh says he told the president on the spot, "You have made an immortal address," and was chided by Lincoln for extravagance of estimate. And Edward Everett did not fail in quick appreciation. He wrote Lincoln on the day following the dedication: "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes." MacVeagh and Everett were the two notable exceptions. The immortal 272 words seem to have gone over the heads of the rest of the 15,000 at Gettysburg.

The press was no keener than the audience. In the current McCall's Alexander Woolcott writes that the puissant New York Times published an editorial next day entitled "Two Great Speeches." It developed in the text that one of the speeches was Everett's and the other had been delivered on a different occasion by Henry Ward Beecher. Lincoln's Gettysburg speech was not mentioned in the discussion. A newspaper called the Patriot and Union, published at Harrisburg, near Gettysburg, said in its account of the dedication: "We pass over the silly remarks of the president," and the Chicago Times proclaimed: "The cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he reads silly, flat, dish-watery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the president." And the verdict of the American correspondent of the London Times, as published in that ponderous journal, was that "anything more dull and commonplace it would not be easy to produce."

But in the course of his 272 words Lincoln said: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here," thereby demonstrating that he, like the rest of the 15,000, lacked appreciation of the greatness of his own 272 words.

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'Long Remembered'

Girl Best Reporter At Gettysburg

By WILLIAM G. SMOCK

HANOVER, PENN.

Abraham Lincoln's birthday February 12 has a special significance in this Eastern Pennsylvania community, where townsmen still tell how a girl reporter on a weekly newspaper here earned an immortal journalistic niche in 1863 by gauging the true worth of the famous Gettysburg address.

The girl—one of America's first woman reporters—was Miss Mary Shaw Leader, who was sent to cover the speech delivered by Lincoln when a national cemetery was dedicated on the Gettysburg battlefield during the War Between the States.

* * *

On November 19, 1863, the 28-year-old reporter wrote a story which called the address "a remarkable speech" while better-known reporters from big cities shrugged it off and used their adjectives on a two-hour oration by

Edward Everett, former Governor of Massachusetts and one-time minister to Great Britain.

Miss Leader and the Associated Press carried the full text of Lincoln's short address, but most newspapers merely mentioned that the President spoke briefly.

* * *

The Hanover girl's story—written for the Weekly Spectator, her family's paper—began this way:

"Thursday last, the 19th of November, 1863, was a great day in the history of Pennsylvania and the entire Nation. The battlefield was dedicated with imposing ceremonies in the honor of the great battle which decided the fate of the Nation.

"The appearance of the President on the stand was the signal for repeated cheers and enthusiasm. Then our great President began to deliver a remarkable speech."

Miss Leader, an attractive young woman and considered one of the town's most stylish residents, was a reporter on the Spec-

tator until the paper suspended publication in 1892. She died in comparative poverty in 1913.

In 1941, a Hanover man who learned the printing trade as an apprentice in the Spectator shop while Miss Leader was a reporter decided to perpetuate her memory by collecting a fund for a monument at her grave.

As a result of his efforts, a ten-foot shaft of granite was erected. The monument carries a relief of Miss Leader and an inscription which reads in part:

"To the memory of Mary Shaw Leader, pioneer newspaper woman.

* * *

"Her first-hand report of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address bore witness to its greatness. In her account for the Hanover Spectator, she garnered Lincoln's words from his own lips. She helped the world to 'long remember.'

"Her fellow townsmen pay this belated tribute to her courage, enterprise and foresightedness that we may never forget."—
(By AP.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

2/11/44

Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg as Reported by Harper's Weekly

HARPER'S WEEKLY'S report of the Lincoln Gettysburg address, published December 5, 1863, was as follows:

"The solemn ceremony at Gettysburg is one of the most striking events of the war. There are graveyards enough in the land—what is Virginia but a cemetery?—and the brave who have died for us in this fierce war consecrate the soil from the ocean to the Mississippi.

"But there is a peculiar significance in the field of Gettysburg, for there thus far was thundered to the rebellion: This it is which separates it from all the other battlefields of this war. Elsewhere the men in the ranks have fought as nobly, and their officers have directed as bravely; but here their valor stayed the flood of barbarism, and like the precious shells that the highest storm-tides strew upon the beach, showing how far the waters came, so the dead heroes of Gettysburg marked the highest tide of war.

"Therefore shall their graves be peculiarly honored, and their memory especially sacred; and all that living men can bring of pomp and solemnity and significance to hallow their resting-place shall not be wanting.

"The president and the cabinet

were there, with famous soldiers and civilians. The oration by Mr. Everett was smooth and cold. Delivered, doubtless, with his accustomed graces, it yet wanted one stirring thought, one vivid picture, one thrilling appeal.

"The few words of the president were from the heart to the heart. They can not be read, even, without kindling emotion. "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." It was as simple and felicitous and earnest a word as was ever spoken.

"Among the governors present was Horatio Seymour. He came to honor the dead of Gettysburg. But when they were dying he stood in New York sneeringly asking where was the victory promised for the Fourth of July? These men were winning that victory and dying for us all; and now he mourns, ex officio, over their graves.

"When the war is over and the verdict of history is rendered, it is not those who have steadily perplexed the government in every way—those who first incited and then palliated massacre and riot—who will be known as the friends of the soldiers, but those whose faith was firmest in the darkest hours, and who did not falter though the foe were at the door."

333 **Herbert, George.** The works of, in prose and verse. 2 vols., London, William Pickering, 1846, full mor., g. e., $5\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$, *portrait and view*. \$6.00

Pickering's fine large-type edition.

334 **Herbert, Henry W.** The Captains of the Old World; as compared with the great modern strategists, their campaigns, characters and conduct, from the Persian to the Punic Wars. N. Y., 1851, clo., $4\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$, pp. xiv, 364, *illus.* \$1.50

FIRST EDITION.

340 **Hillard, George S.** Address before the N. E. Soc'y. N. Y., 1852, paper, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, pp. 31, original wrappers, stitched. \$0.75

FIRST EDITION.

341 **Hillard.** Memoir of James Brown. Boston, 1856, cloth, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$, pp. 188, *portrait of James Brown, privately printed*. \$1.50

PRESENTATION COPY, with inscription on fly-leaf—"To Charles Folsom, Esq., with the kind regards of Little Brown & Co. Boston, Dec. 10, 1856."

342 **Hodson, James S.** An historical and practical guide to Art Illustration, in connection with books, periodicals, and general decoration. With numerous specimens of the various methods. London, 1884, clo., g. t., uncut, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, pp. 8, 224, *illus.* \$2.00

Gives a technical description of the various forms of engraving and illustrative processes, including most of those of modern origin.

343 **Holkot, (Roberti).** Expositio Libri Sapientiae Salomonis, editio prima; an admirable specimen of the Typography of the XV century, printed in double columns of 42 lines each, very thick folio, a beautifully clean and fresh copy, full bound in russia extra, gilt leaves, BY HERING, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, A FINE VOLUME. (Coloniae. U. Zell, seu C. de Homborch), circa MCCCCLXXIX. \$25.00

344 **Holland, Josiah Gilbert.** Bitter Sweet. N. Y., 1859, clo., $4\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$, pp. 220. \$1.25

FIRST EDITION. Of Holland as a writer *The Nation* says—"He had the immense advantage of keeping on a plane of thought just above that of a vast multitude of readers, each one of whom he could touch with the hand and raise a little upward."

comment on J. G. Holland
in English Republic, 1859
for one edition

DEDICATION DAY AT GETTYSBURG

Thursday, the 19th day of November, 1863, will long be remembered as the day when the NATIONAL NECROPOLIS at Gettysburg was dedicated. On that day, Governors of the States and the President of the United States, with tens of thousands of the People of the States, assembled in that quiet Pennsylvania town for the piously patriotic purpose of dedicating, with suitable solemn ceremonies, the ground where rest the remains of that noble "army of Martyrs" who fell in the great battle of Gettysburg, on the 2nd and 3rd of July last.

The day was delightful. All the other days of the week were rainy and inclement. But, on Thursday, the day set apart for that august ceremonial, the sun rose upon the scene with unclouded brightness. And, scarcely had its beams lighted up the landscape, before thousands of the pilgrims to this shrine of patriotism, were wandering over the battlefield which has made Gettysburg henceforth a historic name.

On taking our course out southward of the town, we soon reached the summit of Cemetery Hill. Here were still found the quickly-formed entrenchments from which our batteries hurled death and destruction upon the advancing columns of the rebel foe. From this point, the landscape is beautiful. The view is wide, and the undulating valley, rich with fertile fields and dotted with glistening white farmhouses, goes rolling on and on towards the distant mountains, that stand like a giant framework to this lovely picture of peacefulness and quietude, in we could scarce comprehend that all this had so recently been the theater/which was enacted one of the great tragedies of the war.

But the spot upon which we stood was, even yet, grim and ghastly with the mute memorials of strife and carnage. Soiled fragments of uniforms, in which heroes had fought and died, remnants of haversacks and cartridge boxes, and other mementoes of the terrible conflict, still lay strewn about; while, still lower down the hillside, is seen as mound of earth covering the decaying remains of the artillery horses which were slain by the side of the masters whom they served



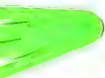
Gettysburg Dedication

on that dreadful field. A little to the west, and upon the apex of the hill, we see the cemetery grounds, where other mounds of earth are rising, and beneath which are to rest all that is mortal of those immortal heroes who died to win the day at Gettysburg.

Looking off northward beyond the town, we see the Seminary buildings, near which the first of the fighting, on Wednesday, July 1, occurred. We can see the position where the gallant Reynolds fell. We can see the position where Howards 11th corps of 18,000 so bravely held the field against 40,000 rebels under Ewell and Hill. Finding himself overpowered, Howard ordered Steinwehr with artillery to occupy the spot whereon we stand; and this prudent move covered Howard's retirement through the town, and thus saved his corps from overpowering numbers.

Further to the southwest rises Wolfe's or Kulp's Hill, wooded and rocky. Along its northeastern front stretches the long line of breastworks, looking still fresh and ungrassed. Hither we ramble and muse mournfully on the tragic scenes that here transpired. A soldier joins us. He had himself stood behind those rude breastworks and battled bravely in those scenes of strifes on the first Thursday and Friday in July. He points out the spot where heroes fought and fell. The trees around us are scarred and marred with ball and shell. Here is where Ewell pushed his desperate rebels up the rocky hillside to the very muzzles of our guns; and here they fell by thousands. Behind yonder rock were found no less than 24 dead rebels in one heap, slain by our flanking sharp-shooters; among them a rebel General, richly dressed, wearing silk stockings and silk under-clothing, diamond jewelry, and \$180 in gold in his pocket.

Still further to our right and south of the town is the Round Top Hill, which commanded the field, and which was the position that the rebels strove so desperately to gain. Here the surroundings still bear the marks of the terrible war storm that broke around its summit. The trees are cut and pierced with the leaden hail that fell from clouds of flame upon the devoted defenders. The



Gettysburg Dedication

ground is still strewn with those missiles of death, and thousands are gathering those relics of one of the most awful battles known to the records of human welfare. Between Round Top and the town, on the Taneytown road, we pass Meade's headquarters, a small farmhouse, which is literally rent and riddled by bullets and balls, by shot and shell. As many as six shells in one second fell around it. Sixteen horses of Meade's Aides were here killed while hitched at the fence, and man and beast alike fell victims of this tempest of horror. Not less than three hundred guns of heavy calibre were then sending ruins over these now peaceful hills, while the rattling roar of two hundred and twenty-five thousand muskets contributed their terrible treble and contralto to the awful bass that was thundered from those deep-throated monsters of destruction.

Once more we reach the summit of Cemetery Hill, and the sounds of martial music greet the ear. The town of Gettysburg is decorated with the flags at half-mast; and from among them we see emerging the splendid banners of the 100th New York, whose snow white tents now fleck the meadows upon the east. The grand procession is moving out towards the point we occupy. The military escort is the regular funeral escort of honor paid to the highest officers in the military service, and consists of this regiment of infantry, one squadron of cavalry, and two batteries of artillery, the whole under command of Major General Couch. The PRESIDENT joined in the procession on horseback; and thus mounted on a splendid black steed, Mr. LINCOLN'S tall and upright figure becomes commandingly conspicuous, and is the observed of all the observers.

On reaching the ground, the President, accompanied by Mr. Seward and Mr. Everett, dismounts and passes to the platform, the whole immense crowd spontaneously uncovering their heads as they pass. Among the distinguished persons upon the stand, we see Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, Governor Tod of Ohio,

Gettysburg Dedication

Also Ex-Governor Denison, Hon. John Brough, Governor-elect, and Hon. Chas. Anderson, Lieut. Governor elect of Ohio; Governor Bradford of Maryland; Governor Morton of Indiana; Governor Seymour of New York; Governor Parker of New Jersey; Governor Boreman and Ex-Governor Pierpont of West Virginia; and Major Generals Schenck, Stahl, Couch and Doubleday.

The ceremonies of the grand and solemn occasion are opened by the following eloquent and thrilling invocation by Rev. Thos. H. Stockton, of the Methodist church: The Prayer....(almost col. in length, 4 times as long as Lincoln's address)....

Concluding with the Lords Prayer, in the utterance of which Reverend speaker was spontaneously joined by almost the entire multitude, whose feelings seemed most deeply solemnized during the offering up of the devout and sublime prayer that had preceded it.

Solemn and dirge-like music followed, after which HON. EDWARD EVERETT delivered the oration prepared for the occasion (PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE ON ACCOUNT OF ITS LENGTH.) The oration of Mr. Everett is eminently worthy of the great occasion and of his own great fame. Concerning it, Mr. Seward remarked, that it would prove a most valuable paper for the country, for the reason of the influence it must have, as an historic document upon our relations with foreign countries.

As the last tones of the pealing anthem died away, PRESIDENT LINCOLN rose to deliver the Dedicatory Address. Instantly every eye was fixed and every voice hushed in expectant and respectful attention. (The address was published, indicating "Applauses" were made by the audience)....

The President's calm but earnest utterance of this brief and beautiful address stirred the deepest foundations of feeling and emotions in the hearts of the vast throng before him and when he concluded, scarcely could an un-tearful eye be seen, while sobs of smothered emotion were heard on every hand. At our side stood a stout, stalwart officer, bearing the ensignia of a captain's

Gettysburg Dedication

rank, the empty sleeve of his coat indicating that he stood where death was revelling, and as the President, speaking of our Gettysburg soldiers, uttered that beautiful touching sentence, so sublime and pregnant of meaning - "The world will little note, nor long remember what we here SAY, but it can never forget what they here DID" - the gallant soldier's feelings burst over all restraint; and burying his face in his handkerchief, he sobbed aloud while his manly frame shook with no unmanly emotion. In a few moments, with a stern struggle to master his emotions, he lifted his still streaming eyes to heaven and in low and solemn tones exclaimed: "GOD ALMIGHTY BLESS ABRAHAM LINCOLN!" And to this spontaneous invocation a thousand hearts around him silently responded, "AMEN."

At the close of the President's address, Chief Marshal Lamon announced the conclusion of the ceremonies of the day.....

Ohio State Journal, Nov. 23, 1863

Another bum guess: Back in 1865, the Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot & Union commented thus on Lincoln's Gettysburg address, which had just been delivered: "We pass over the silly remarks of the President . . . We are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of." (Ho-hum.)

Age of reason: You have to be 25 yrs. old before you can vote in Japan.

Yolande Clark

Seventy-Four Years Since Lincoln's Speech

Three score and fourteen years ago Friday Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address.

"One of the few people of that day who really appreciated Lincoln's remarks was Edward Everett who had preceded the President on the program with an address of great length. In a letter to Mr. Lincoln on the following day, Mr. Everett said:

'Permit me also to express my great admiration of the thoughts expressed by you, with such eloquent simplicity and appropriateness, at the consecration of the Cemetery. I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes.'

"Although comparatively few people recognized at the time that the President's brief remarks comprised an oration of unusual worth there is no difference of opinion today about the literary merits of the Gettysburg Address, delivered by Abraham Lincoln on Nov. 19, 1863. Lord Curzon, a famous English critic, declared in a lecture at Oxford University that it was one of the three outstanding orations in the Anglo-Saxon tongue."

Camden Record News 11-18-37

Even Gettysburg Address

Ridiculed in Its Time

Gettysburg Address 7/3/39
The President succeeded on this occasion because he acted without sense and without constraint in a panorama that was gotten up more for the benefit of his party than for the glory of the nation and the honor of the dead . . . We pass over the silly remarks of the President; for the credit of the nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of."

This is not an extract from an editorial in one of our Republican newspapers. Nor are the sentiments quoted above taken from the utterances of a senator opposing the New Deal. They are from an editorial that was printed in the Harrisburg Patriot and Union on Nov. 24, 1863, and have no reference to President Roosevelt.

The president in question was Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we are celebrating. The "silly remarks" were the Gettysburg speech.

When we come to consider that Lincoln's Gettysburg speech is looked upon by all men as the greatest speech of all time save one alone, viz: the Sermon on the Mount, how little attention we should pay to the outpourings of the press of either party.

JAMES L. BLACKMER

THE GETTYSBURG SOLEMNITIES

(Reprinted from the Philadelphia Bulletin, Nov. 20, 1863)

The proceedings at Gettysburg yesterday seem to have been, in every respect, appropriate. The presence of the President and many other distinguished men, together with a vast multitude of people from all parts of the country, shows how high is the popular estimate of victory that was won by General Meade in July. It shows, too, how dearly the Nation treasures the memories of the brave men who laid down their lives on those memorable days. Mr. Everett's oration is a fine, scholarly production. It is somewhat deficient in warmth, as it is all that he writes, but it will serve as an enduring record, not merely of the dedication of the National Cemetery, but of the whole campaign which was crowned with victory at Gettysburg. The President's brief speech of dedication is most happily expressed. It is warm, earnest, unaffected and touching. Thousands who would not read the long, elaborate oration of Mr. Everett will read the President's words, and not many of them will do it without a moistening of the eyes and a swelling of the heart. The really sacred soil of the Battlefield of Gettysburg has now been solemnly set apart as the resting place of its heroes, and it will attract pilgrims from all parts of the land as long as we are a Nation.

LINCOLN SPEECH AT GETTYSBURG A TRIBUNE BEAT

Delivered 4 Score and 7 Years Ago Today

BY CLAYTON KIRKPATRICK

Four score and seven years ago today — Nov. 19, 1863 — Abraham Lincoln stood before a great outdoor audience and delivered one of the most eloquent and perfectly composed addresses in literature. He dedicated the new national cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., with words that have become immortal.

The speech was widely reported in the newspapers of the day, but only a few of the correspondents who were there, and still fewer among the editors who read their dispatches, recognized the speech for the masterpiece that it is.

Among them were a correspondent for THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE and his editor in Chicago, Joseph Medill. It was because of Medill's sound evaluation of one of the greatest news stories of all time, that THE TRIBUNE excelled all other newspapers in Chicago and most others thruout the nation in its report.

Biografer Cites Dispatch

It was the first newspaper in Chicago to publish the complete text of the Gettysburg address. William E. Barton, biografer, who examined most of the newspaper accounts of the dedication ceremonies before writing his book, "Lincoln at Gettysburg," reports that THE TRIBUNE's dispatch was the first printed in the nation that accurately forecast the immortal quality of the speech.

Medill, who had taken over the job of editor in chief that same month, tho he had been a principal owner of the newspaper since 1855, put the Gettysburg story on page one of three different issues of THE TRIBUNE. The principal account occupied one and three-quarters columns and was unsurpassed in completeness and detail in the national press.

The Five Texts

These are some of the reasons why photostats of these stories have been included in displays

Nonpolitical Tie-up



[TRIBUNE Photo]

Richard Kearns and his bride, the former Betty Lamberty, walking down aisle of St. Basil's church yesterday after marriage.

The wedding was termed non-political yesterday when Richard Kearns and Elizabeth Lamberty were married in St. Basil's church, Garfield blvd. and Honore st. He is the son of James Kearns, former Republican alderman of the old 31st ward and former clerk of the Municipal court; she is the daughter of Henry Lamberty, 1720 Garfield blvd., chief engineer of the public library, and Mrs. Jean Lamberty, former Democratic committeewoman of the 15th ward and now an aid to City Clerk Ludwig Schreiber. The bride was an actress for a time, having parts in "The Front Page," "John Loves Mary," and in W-G-N radio plays. She is now publicity representative for Helena Rubinstein, cosmetician. Kearns is a construction engineer.

and the comment of its correspondent that "there was some speech making. The crowd called out the President, who responded briefly and managed to say nothing but the customary formalities."

Some Critics Scornful

The correspondent might have been referring to a brief speech Lincoln made the night before the dedication ceremonies, Wednesday, the 18th, but the story printed on Nov. 21 did not make this clear.

At any rate, the paper's esti-

mated that the Chicago newspaper that attempted to disparage the great Lincoln speech. The other two, the afternoon Journal and the Morning Post, merely failed to recognize its significance.

The Journal carried only one report on the speech, a little more than half a column on the afternoon of the 21st. It appears to have pirated part of the Times' story since it carried the same line about Lincoln's saying nothing "but the customary formalities."

It belatedly made amends on Nov. 25 when it reprinted a text of the Lincoln address with the following introduction:

"The brief and beautiful remarks with which President Lincoln dedicated the national cemetery at Gettysburg last Thursday were somewhat marred by the telegraf as published by us Saturday. We therefore republish them in corrected form."

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

The Morning Post had nothing on the Lincoln address until the morning of the 22d. It reprinted a text of the speech, complete with the same telegraphic errors, that had been printed in THE TRIBUNE a day earlier.

THE TRIBUNE had established a practice of reporting Lincoln's speeches fully in 1858. This was the year of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. Medill and THE TRIBUNE were avid Lincoln supporters since it was Medill who helped to launch Lincoln's political career and to found the Republican party that carried him to the Presidency in 1860.

A shorthand reporter took notes on each of these debates for THE TRIBUNE and they were printed and widely distributed thruout the middlewest. The Times, at that time the chief rival of THE TRIBUNE, carried verbatim reports of Douglas's speeches.

The reports made the two debaters nationally famous. THE TRIBUNE's efforts helped Lincoln gain the national stature necessary for his nomination to the Presidency.

Sent From Harrisburg

The identity of THE TRIBUNE correspondent at Gettysburg has been lost, but he ably fulfilled his assignment. It is reported that after Lincoln finished speaking shortly after 2 p. m. on Thursday, the 19th, the correspondent took the train to Harrisburg writing the dispatch on the way in order to get his story on the wire to Chicago.

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Chicago Sunday Tribune: November 19, 1950
Part 1—Page 4 F

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The Five Texts

These are some of the reasons why photostats of these stories have been included in displays opening today in the Chicago Historical society. The society has gathered the five texts of the address which Lincoln drafted in his own hand—two of them before he delivered the address and the other three later.

The first of these drafts was written in Washington on Nov. 18, the day before the speech. The next morning, a few hours before the dedication, Lincoln made final revisions and penned the copy he held in his hand while speaking. Later he gave these two copies to his assistant secretary, John Hay.

Two months later he wrote another copy for a benefit sale at a fair in New York. This copy is now owned by the Illinois State Historical society. Later in 1864 he wrote a fourth copy for a similar fair in Baltimore. But he left out a heading and a signature which was desired, so he wrote another—his fifth and last.

The Tribune's Appraisal

The five drafts are being exhibited, to commemorate the passage of four score and seven years since Lincoln used that familiar phrase to introduce his speech. Loaned to the society by libraries and private collectors, they will be on display until Nov. 30. They are valued at half a million dollars.

The THE TRIBUNE appraised this great story accurately, there were other editorial judgments that missed the mark so far that they seem now almost unbelievable.

The Chicago Times, for example, gave the story only half a column on an inside page. Greater prominence was given to an obscure war in China and the divorce scandal involving Lord Palmerston, the British prime minister.

It carried the text of the address

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At any rate, the paper's estimate of the speech was indicated in a page one dispatch from Washington four days later.

"Your readers will not have failed to observe the exceedingly bad taste which characterized the remarks of the President and the secretary of state [William H. Seward] at the dedication of the soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg," the correspondent wrote.

"The cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat, and dish watery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the President of the United States."

As London Times Saw It

Even as late as Dec. 4, the London Times, in a dispatch from its American correspondent reported: "The ceremony was rendered ludicrous by some of the sallies of that poor President Lincoln. Anything more dull and commonplace it wouldn't be easy to produce."

Editorial judgment in each instance probably was influenced by prejudice against President Lincoln more than the canons of literary excellence. London papers had found it fashionable to sneer at Lincoln and describe him as a backwoodsman and a boor.

The Chicago Times, a Democratic newspaper, was violently opposed to Lincoln, to the abolition movement, and to the vigorous prosecution of the Civil war. As a leader in the "copperhead" movement to impede the war effort and preserve slavery, it moved so close to treason that northern soldiers often threatened to burn its plant after the war.

Belated Recognition

The Times [not related to the later day Chicago afternoon paper now defunct] was the only Chi-

cago newspaper that attempted, to disparage the great Lincoln speech. The other two, the afternoon Journal and the Morning Post, merely failed to recognize its significance.

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Telegraph facilities at Gettysburg were swamped by messages on that day, it was said, and there would have been long delays had the reporter waited his turn there.

From Harrisburg the correspondent filed a dispatch of about 300 words. It was printed on page one of THE TRIBUNE the next morning. It was this dispatch that Barton cited as the first to indicate the permanent value of the President's address.

Correspondent's Evaluation

The dedication ceremonies were described as being of the "most impressive and memorable character"; the dedicatory remarks of President Lincoln, reported the correspondent, "will live among the annals of the war."

The next day the correspondent sent his "full notes of the most impressive civic occasion of the war." The dispatch occupied nearly two columns on the front page of the paper. It was a vivid description of the great crowd, the topography of the battlefield, the reaction to Edward Everett's masterly oration, and the President's address.

It ran under the following multiple decked headlines:

FROM GETTYSBURG, PA.
THE CONSECRATION OF THE
BATTLE CEMETERY
50,000 PERSONS
IN ATTENDANCE
IMPRESSIVE EXERCISES OF
THE OCCASION
DIBGE OF HON. D. B. FRENCH
—ORATION BY HON.
EDWARD EVERETT
DEDICATORY ADDRESS BY
PRESIDENT LINCOLN
A GRAND NATIONAL
TESTIMONIAL TO OUR
FALLEN BRAVES

The following text of the speech was printed:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers established upon this continent a government subscribed in liberty and dedicated to the fundamental principle that all mankind are created equal by a good God, and [applause] now we are engaged in a great contest. We are contesting whether this nation, or any nation so conceived, so dedicated can longer remain. We are met on a great battlefield of the war. We are met here to dedicate a portion of that field as the final resting place of those who have given their lives to that nation that it might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we

[Continued on following page]

LINCOLN SPEECH AT GETTYSBURG A TRIBUNE BEAT

Delivered 4 Score and 7
Years Ago Today

[Continued from preceding page]

should do this. But in a large sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.

"The brave men lying dead, who struggled here, consecrated it far above our poor power to add or to detract. [Great applause.] The world will little heed, nor long remember what we say here, but it will never forget what they did here. [Immense applause.]

"It is for Us—"

"It is for us rather, the living, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried forward. It is rather for us here to be dedicated the great task remaining before us; for us to renew our devotion to that cause for which they gave the full measure of their devotion. Here let us resolve that what they have done shall not have been done in vain. That the nation shall, under God, have a new birth. That the government the people founded, by the people shall not perish."

This version, as most schoolboys will recognize, contains many verbal departures from the authorized text of the address. Undoubtedly, as the Post pointed out, the message had been garbled to some extent in transmission.

Other newspapers printed even different versions. There is still some uncertainty about what Lincoln said exactly on that memorable day. He had written at least the first half of his speech before he left Washington on the afternoon of the 18th. It is believed he finished this draft in pencil that evening. This copy is one that has been preserved.

Lincoln's Revision

The next morning Lincoln made a new copy of the speech making minor changes in words and punctuation. It was this new copy, most witnesses declared, that Lincoln pulled from his pocket when he rose to speak.

It was said that he glanced only occasionally at the manuscript. According to most reports he departed from it slightly. The phrase,

Little Egypt



NANCY GUILD

Movie Star Nancy Guild, former University of Southern California student and model, arrived yesterday at Midway airport on an American Air Lines plane from Hollywood. She is here to do research work on Little Egypt, the famed dancer at the World's Columbian exposition of 1893, who will be the subject of a movie in which Nancy will have the title role.

"under God," in the next to the last sentence, for example, does not appear in the first two drafts,

but it was reported by most of the correspondents.

Lincoln loaned his draft of the speech to an Associated Press reporter named Gilbert for a few moments after he had finished and Gilbert corrected his notes from it. Otherwise the reporters depended upon their own notes for the text.

Everett's Appreciation

Everett, the great orator who spoke for two hours and four minutes before Lincoln rose to make his brief and simple address, was one of the first to congratulate the President. Two days later he wrote a letter in which he said:

"I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

It was in response to his plea for a copy of the speech that Lincoln wrote it out again. Later he wrote two more copies for George Bancroft, the historian. Each of the copies differs from the others slightly in word choice or punctuation.

The Tribune's Follow-up

THE TRIBUNE at this time had weekly and tri-weekly as well as daily editions. On Nov. 24, in one of the tri-weekly issues, it carried the complete text of Everett's speech requiring nearly four and a half columns of type.

On the 26th the weekly issue

carried the whole Gettysburg story again on page one. In addition it carried a vivid eye-witness account of the Battle of Gettysburg written during the campaign by Maj. William Medill, a brother of Joseph Medill.

William Medill was an officer in the 8th Illinois cavalry regiment. This regiment together with the 12th cavalry and the 82d infantry helped turn the tide against the Confederacy after Lee's armies had made their deepest penetration into northern territory.

William Medill's Story

He told of watching the battle develop "as plainly as you can [see] a scene in McVicker's

Chicago Sunday Tribune: November 19, 1950

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theater." And he described the charge of his regiment at a critical moment when it seemed that the rebels would overrun the union infantry.

The editor's brother was killed July 6 after he led his regiment into the battle of Williamsport where the beaten southerners had turned at bay after their defeat at Gettysburg.

For the final round-up of the story THE TRIBUNE even included a diagram of the 17 acre cemetery plot where 1,893 union soldiers from 18 states were buried.

reaction

The Journal

SIoux CITY, IOWA

LINCOLN'S "REMARKS."

The Muscatine Journal has been digging back into its files to see what it said about the dedication of the Gettysburg battle field as a national cemetery on November 19, 1863, and discovers that Hon. Edward Everett "delivered the oration, which was listened to with profound attention," while President Lincoln "also made a few appropriate remarks."

The Muscatine paper has little reason to apologize for its seeming lack of appreciation of the merit of these "few appropriate remarks." It is doubtful if any of the newspapers of 1863 had the slightest notion that the brief speech that President Lincoln delivered on that occasion was destined to be immortal. The only newspaper of that time in the files in this office is the Cedar Falls Gazette. In one issue it briefly chronicled the fact that "the consecration of the soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., took place yesterday," and in the next week's issue it mentioned a speech which was made—not by President Lincoln, nor by Mr. Everett, but by Gov. Seymour, of New York. D. Appleton & Co.'s Annual Encyclopedia for 1863 mentions the dedication, but says nothing about Lincoln's address. Like the Muscatine Journal, contemporary publications recognized in Lincoln's brief pronouncement nothing more than "a few appropriate remarks" and left it for the future to come to know their beauty and their strength. 8 10 1515

Authorities differ as to how the Gettysburg address came into being. Isaac Arnold, one of the best known of Lincoln's many biographers, says it was "in the cars on his way from the White House to the battle field" that Lincoln was informed that he would be expected to say something, and thereupon he jotted down in pencil the brief address which a few hours later, after Mr. Everett had delivered what was supposed to be "the oration of the day," he read to the assembled multitude on the battle field. But Messrs. Nicolay & Hay in their biography offer in evidence the note of invitation, dated November 2, in which Lincoln was notified that "it is the desire that, after the oration, you, as chief executive of the nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks" (just what the Muscatine Journal reported that he delivered), so, it would seem that, after all, Lincoln had some time to give to preparation of the speech, although, of course, he may have delayed putting his thoughts on paper until the eleventh hour.

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here," said President Lincoln. It is true that the world of that day, as reflected in the Muscatine Journal and the Cedar Falls Gazette and hundreds of other newspapers, took little note of what was said at Gettysburg by Mr. Lincoln, but as for its being remembered, it will be treasured by the republic as a part of its heritage as long as the republic shall last.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

It is remarked on and wondered at that while Lincoln's Gettysburg address has now taken its place as an immortal English classic, when delivered, not only was it received without acclaim, but it was almost completely ignored. 2 16. 1509

This little speech was delivered by Lincoln at the exercises in dedication of the national cemetery at Gettysburg on the afternoon of November 19, 1863.

Here were to be buried the soldiers who had fallen in the great battle of a few months before. A part of the battleground had been set apart for the purpose, and consecrated previously to the reburial of the bodies by exercises which attracted attention all over the country. Edward Everett, the orator of the day, had prepared for the occasion an address the delivery of which took nearly two hours. President Lincoln, of course, had planned to be present at the exercises, and on the night before he left the white house had scribbled down a few notes, knowing, as he said to the late John Hay, then his private secretary, that he would "be expected to say something."

The account of the exercises was spread over many columns in the big city newspapers the next morning, but no particular attention was devoted to Mr. Lincoln's speech. Many of the newspapers did not print the address and a few made no mention whatever of the fact that Lincoln had spoken. Still others merely said that the president "delivered a short address of dedication." COUNCIL BLUFFS

And this is thought remarkable. But why? It probably was a gathering of ordinary people that heard Lincoln on that day. It was not for the ordinary mind to perceive at once the truth and beauty of what was said, notwithstanding the simplicity of it. It takes heated phrases, pronounced with vehemence, substance or no substance, to catch the crowd. The newspaper accounts were faithful enough; the reporters merely interpreted events as they transpired. Like good reporters, they remained with the crowd. But there was in that crowd one man, who, of them all, was least favorably circumstanced to place a correct estimate on what he heard, he himself having just concluded the "main" ad-

dress of the day, and yet who did unerringly understand. That man was Edward Everett. At that moment he typified the judgment of the ages. "Permit me," he wrote to Lincoln within twenty-four hours, "to express my great admiration of the thought expressed by you at the consecration of the cemetery. I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes." NON PARIEL

It is good for the multitude of today to commit the Gettysburg speech to heart, and to recite it frequently, but it was not necessary, nor should it be wondered at that such was not the case, for the Gettysburg gathering of '63 to applaud its delivery or comprehend its immortal worth.



What Post Readers Say

LINCOLN'S ADDRESS

To the Editor of the Post:

Sir—Apropos of Louis A. Warren's assertion in a talk at the Providence Rotary Club that President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address had been written three days before the immortal President delivered it at that hallowed cemetery instead of having been written "with a pencil stub on a piece of brown wrapping paper on a train" may I say to Mr. Warren: "What of it!"

As a schoolboy, I recited it on Memorial Day, and the good school-teacher who asked that I should told me she, as a girl, read it to an appreciative audience.

Mr. Warren may know what he was talking about, and Ida Tarbell, Carl Sandburg and other biographers of Lincoln don't.

However, whether it was written in the White House and revised three times, or written on a soiled cuff or a piece of wrapping paper in a day coach, it is still a masterpiece. So why spoil a cherished national legend?

I hope that some Rotary Club orator doesn't arise some day and say he doubts that Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner" on the back of an envelope with the stub of a pencil.

READER.

Boston Post 2-3-49



But What Is Truth?

Asked Jestng Pilate.

The *Lit. Dig.* this week has on its cover a picture of Lincoln at Gettysburg, which is strictly the boloney. It's that same old picture we've seen before on calendars and in art lithographs, and, though we always let out awful moans whenever we see it and tell everybody that will listen the real story of the Gettysburg speech, it never does any good. And now comes the *Lit. Dig.* with the same hokey picture. All right, we'll moan some more and tell again the truth about that afternoon at Gettysburg.

The picture on the cover of the *Lit. Dig.* represents Mr. Lincoln standing on the platform at Gettysburg with his hands clasped in front of him in the attitude of a sweet girl graduate about to say, "And so, classmates, let us march forth and conquer." In the *Lit. Dig.*'s picture the sky is blue, white fleecy clouds float softly overhead, the people sitting on the platform are listening intently, and one strong man has broken down and is weeping softly into a handkerchief and a high silk hat.

Yet, on the afternoon Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg it was a dreary, dark day. Edward Everett, who had delivered the oration of the day, had talked for 3 hours and $\frac{1}{2}$, and the audience had been bored into unconsciousness. Lincoln, who had been told by the committee to say just a few words as a sort of benediction, had written his speech on a postal card while the train was bringing him in from Washington.

As Mr. Lincoln began to speak the rain came down and many of those who had not been entirely paralyzed by Mr. Everett's long winded harangue turned and hurried for shelter. A big crowd of drunken soldiers just in front of the platform began grabbing each other's caps and tossing them about and then started fighting. Some one held an umbrella over Mr. Lincoln and he pulled out the postal card and read his speech, slowly and painfully, because it was getting towards night and the light was fading. Those on the platform said Mr. Lincoln could hardly be heard fifteen feet away and that he read so badly that they all thought his speech was a failure and regretted that he had made it. It took several days for the great American public to realize that the Gettysburg address was one of the masterpieces of the English language.

And now will the artists stop distorting history and behave themselves? If you think so, dearie, then you don't know artists.





Old Mahoning Register Bore Text of Gettysburg Address

Eighty-one years ago today, on Nov. 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln spoke words at the dedication of a national cemetery at Gettysburg that live on as a message to Americans today.

An account of the dedication of the cemetery plus the complete text of Lincoln's speech was published Nov. 26, 1863 in The Mahoning Register, a Youngstown weekly, Republican paper. It ran on Page 2, alongside the editorials. Most of the account was taken from news gathered by The Pittsburgh Chronicle.

The text of the President's speech varies slightly from the modern version. It began: "Four score and 10 years ago," and the concluding phrase read, "but that the nation shall endure and that government by the people and of the people shall not perish from the earth," instead of "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Dignitaries at Cemetery

High dignitaries and military personnel, in colorful attire, proceeded along Emmittsburg Road to the southwest slope of the cemetery in a solemnly impressive procession.

The ceremony opened at dawn when the quiet of the battle-scarred slopes around Gettysburg was broken by the blast of a 12-pound shell from a British gun mounted on Culp's Hill. Shortly afterwards, crowds of people on foot, horseback, in carriages, and all manner of vehicles scattered over the countryside to examine the battlefield. The procession formed at 9 a. m. and began moving an hour later.

After Edward Everett's two-hour speech, and a song by the Union Musical Association of Maryland, came the President's speech. He began:

Cheer Lincoln

"Four score and seven years ago . . ." Cheers greeted his opening assertion that "all men are created equal." Cheers again rose from the crowd as he spoke the memorable phrase: "Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg at 5 o'clock the night preceding the dedication. The station looks the same now as it did 81 years ago, residents there say. In a room on the first floor of a building at the corner of what is now Carlisle and York Sts., Lincoln is reputed to have revised his speech. A national monument now marks the spot where Lincoln stood as he spoke words which will live forever.

Ohioans There

Soon after Lincoln and his party arrived at Gettysburg, another train arrived bringing Governor Curtin and staff, Gov. David Tod of Youngstown and staff, Gov.-Elect Brough, ex-Governor Dennison, Lt. Governor Anderson, and about half the members-elect of the Ohio legislature. On the same train were Governor Morton of Indiana, and a prominent delegation from the West, Governor Seymour of New York, Governor Packer of New Jersey, Governor Pierpont and staff of Virginia.

Following the ceremonies, the lieutenant governor entertained the Ohio delegation at a dinner in the Presbyterian Church at 5 p. m. at which Lincoln was an honor guest.



Washington Background

British Colleges Revere Gettysburg Address

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MCSWEENEY (D., O.), who completed his law education in the London Inns of Court, was telling a group of colleagues on Lincoln's Birthday that while on a sight-seeing tour of Oxford University he noticed in the chancel of the Great Hall a copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address painted on the wall. Below it was this statement: "The finest example of English extant."



REP. MCSWEENEY

McSweeney said he was told that the heads of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Aberystwyth and other great English universities, at their annual meetings, often discussed the Gettysburg Address. The only phrase to which any one ever took exception was "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." A few scholars questioned Lincoln's choice of the word "proposition," contending that a proposition was amenable only to a mathematical equal. Yet, when the objectors tried to find another word to take its place, they confessed they were stumped.

* * *

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1950

Wrote for details but no reply R S W.

ured. The poorest, yet the richest. The least pretensions, yet the most fascinating. The commonest

up an old cardboard from the floor of the car on his way to Gettysburg and scratched off the Get-

livered, he sent it over to Secretary Seward, who was the guest of another resident of Gettysburg,

he was only to dedicate the ground in a "Few, well-chosen words." He had performed his

The mystic chorus of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth stone, on even

Reaction to Address
[Binder 3, p. 40-81]

Dr. W. E. B. DUBOIS

Gettysburg Address

